

Hafa Adai!

With CNMI now nearing 99% vaxxed, what's next? **PAGE 3**  
CCERA to temporarily suspend accepting applications. **PAGE 5**

\$1

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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FRIDAY JANUARY 28, 2022

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## 2 S.Korean airlines to resume Saipan route next week

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Two South Korean airlines that have suspended their Saipan route as a result of the surge in COVID-19 cases are expected to resume services next week.

See **AIRLINES** on **Page 4**

# 23rd COVID-related death in CNMI, 124 new cases

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. confirmed last night the CNMI's 23rd COVID-19-related death.

CHCC confirmed the CNMI's latest COVID-19-related fatality in a news release late evening yesterday, but did not divulge more details of the case, as is its standard procedure.

Also, Guam's Joint Information Center was notified of two COVID-19-related fatalities yesterday, bringing Guam's death toll from COVID-19-related deaths to 284.

The same news release disclosed that 124 additional individuals have been confirmed positive for COVID-19, bringing the CNMI total to 4,564 cases since March 26, 2020. The individuals have been isolated and are actively monitored. Their vaccination statuses are pending verification.

Of the 124 cases identified on Jan. 26, a total of 43 were identified via contact tracing, 71 via community testing, and 10 via travel testing. Six of these new cases were identified on Rota.

As of Jan. 27, 2022, nine  
See **23RD** on **Page 4**

## MORE HELP FROM THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

### Kilili: Plan now to file for Earned Income Tax Credit

Income tax filers in the Marianas will be eligible to receive the Earned Income Tax Credit when they file their CNMI 1040 for 2021 in the coming weeks. The maximum credit for 2021 is \$6,728.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) was able to

include full and permanent federal funding for the tax credit in the American Rescue Plan Act last year, a legislative goal he first set in 2015 with the introduction of H.R. 4390.

Rep. Tina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) completed the tax  
See **KILILI** on **Page 4**

## YUMUL TO CCC BOARD CHAIR: 'You can go to hell'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_deltorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The long-running saga about the removal of the tower cranes at the casino project site in western Garapan came to a head yesterday, with Im-

perial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC chief executive officer Ray N. Yumul losing his temper and telling Commonwealth Casino Commission board chair Edward C. DeLeon Guerrero that he can

See **HELL** on **Page 4**



'TEACH A MAN TO FISH...'

A fisherman casts his line into the Saipan lagoon Tuesday evening near San Jose.

MARK FARMER

## AT A GLANCE

As of 7:23pm, Jan. 27, 2022

### VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population **98.9%**  
Fully Vaccinated: **36,341**

Days since last community transmission **1**

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	37,588
Fully Vaccinated:	36,341
Moderna	
Initiated:	5,316
Fully Vaccinated:	5,146
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	1,121

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	29,478	743	30,221
Recovered	22,251	1,033	23,284
Active	5,910	743	6,653
Deaths	282	2	284

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	4,440	124	4,564
Traced via Travel Screening	516	10	526
Traced via Community Screening	3,924	114	4,038
Deaths	22	0*	22

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., <https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/>

## COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

### LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

## CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

42,608 Fully vaccinated



44,025 First dose

Source: [vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/](https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/)

## INSIDE



### SUPPLEMENT

Today's issue comes with a pullout supplement, "Healthy Choices, Healthy You."

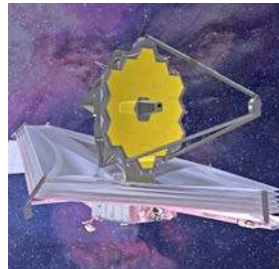
Page 13



### LOCAL

The CNMI Republican Party's campaign headquarters in Garapan is now open.

Page 24



### SCIENCE & TECH

The world's most powerful space telescope arrived at its post 1 million miles from Earth.

Page 26



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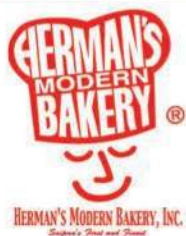
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## Local

### Treasures abounded in first Kagman new year swap meet

Some 200 participants descended upon the Kagman Community Center last Saturday, Jan. 22, for the New Year Swap Meet multifamily garage sale.

The five-hour event, sponsored by Precinct 5 Reps. Leila Staffler (D-Saipan) and Richard Lizama (D-Saipan), offered the 16 pre-registered vendors an outdoor marketplace to sell and trade their secondhand housewares and gently-used clothing and accessories.

"Richard and I were thrilled with the turnout we had for the swap meet. We wanted to provide our Precinct 5 community with an opportunity to clear out the old to make way for the new year," Staffler said. "Thankfully, the pleasant weather allowed us to host an outdoor event where our com-

munity could gather safely and responsibly."

While vendors from Precinct 5 were prioritized, the swap meet was open to vendors from throughout the community. Staffler expressed her appreciation for everyone who made the event a success and said this won't be the last community event for Precinct 5 on this year's calendar.

"I'd like to thank all of the volunteers who helped prepare the area for our vendors and shoppers, as well as those who stuck around afterward to help clean up the area," she said.

For more information about the swap meet or any upcoming activities in Precinct 5, contact Staffler's office at (670) 664-8892 or via email at rep.staffler@gmail.com. (PR)

### Hana HEALTH MASSAGE

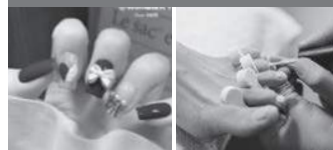
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## With CNMI now nearing 99% vaxxed, what's next?

By JOSHUA SANTOS  
joshua\_santos@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

As the CNMI nears 99% of its eligible population being fully vaccinated against COVID-19, the focus now is on making sure that those eligible are brought "up to date" with their shots.

Currently, over 18,600 booster shots have been administered so far, and this accounts for an estimated 50% of the CNMI's 12-and-older population.

This was all learned from Heather Pangelinan, director of Population Health Services at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., who responded to an inquiry by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Pangelinan first noted that she anticipates the authorization of vaccines for children as young as 6 months. If authorized, this would increase the number of eligible individuals in the CNMI, and thus also decrease the current percentage.

"The percentage may change once we get confirmation on vaccines for younger children. We are anticipating the authorization of vaccines for children as young as 6 months. Adding that population will expand the number of eligible individuals and would reduce the percentage of individuals fully vaccinated," said Pangelinan.

According to the [www.vaccinatecnmi.com](http://www.vaccinatecnmi.com) dashboard, the CNMI is currently at 98.9% vaccinated.

Separately, according to the latest information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine is currently authorized for use in individuals aged 5 and older.

CDC also outlines on its website what being "fully vaccinated" and being "up to date" with your COVID-19 vaccinations means. The page, last updated on Jan. 16, 2022, defines "fully vaccinated" as a person having received their primary series of COVID-19 vaccines. For those who received a Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine, this means the two initial doses. "Up to date" means that a person has "received all recommended COVID-19 vaccines, including any booster dose(s) when eligible."

The CDC also says that everyone aged 12 and older should get a booster dose five months after the last dose in their primary series. For individuals between ages 12 to 17,

CDC says they should only get Pfizer-BioNTech's booster shot. Everyone 18 and older can receive Pfizer-BioNTech's

or Moderna's booster shots.

With many in the CNMI now "fully vaccinated," the focus now is on getting those eli-

gible in the CNMI "up to date."

"Our focus for now, since we are close to the 99% fully vaccinated rate, is to ensure that

everyone eligible for booster shots are brought up to date with the recommendation for booster doses. ...The CHCC

will continue to promote and expand access to booster doses for everyone in the CNMI eligible," said Pangelinan.

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# Hofschneider refers impeachment resolution jointly to 2 committees

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) referred yesterday to two committees House Resolution 22-14, which impeached Gov. Ralph DLG Torres for alleged commission of felonies, corruption, and neglect of duty.

At a press conference in his office, Hofschneider disclosed that he referred the impeachment resolution to the Committee on Judiciary, Government, Law, and Federal Relations, and the Committee on Executive, Appointments, and Government Investigations.

He instructed both Sens. Karl King Nabors (R-Tinian) and Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian), chairpersons of the Committee on Judiciary, Government, Law and Federal Relations, and Committee on Executive, Appointments and Government Investigations, respectively, to review the resolution.

He said he asked the two committees to prepare the Senate for the impending trial of Torres, which schedule will

be announced at a later date.

Hofschneider said he signed the memo designating the impeachment document over to the joint committee for review, inclusive of the Senate rules of impeachment for consideration by the full Senate.

He said the impeachment resolution was transmitted to the Senate last Jan. 15.

Hofschneider assured that the Senate will provide both parties an opportunity to present what they have before the Senate and they will go from there.

As to why not just adopt the Senate rules that were drafted in 2013 in the case against then-governor Benigno R. Fitial, Hofschneider said different Senate members are involved this year and that he wants to give an opportunity to the new members to also give some of their views.

He said Nabors and Cruz will be calling their own committee meeting to address some of the rules governing the impeachment process.

The president said the Senate resolution introduced by Sens. Edith E. DeLeon Guer-



Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) announces his referral of the House impeachment resolution to two committees during a press conference yesterday in his office. **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**

rero (D-Saipan) and Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) to use the impeachment rules adopted by the Senate in Fi-

tial's case is going to be automatically assigned to Nabors' committee.

As to who will act as a presiding judge at the trial, Hofschneider said that is still pending.

"Everything right now is still pending the adoption of the rules because there are some elements of the process on how to approach this in terms of picking the presiding judge or the judge to facilitate the hearing," he said.

The president said he is going to ask Nabors and Cruz to come back to him as soon as

next week to give him a deadline as to when they are going to see a product of the rules.

Hofschneider said they have never gone down this path before and that's the reason why it is better for them to take this carefully and give opportunities to both sides to present their case.

He said this is a very sensitive issue for everyone in the community. "We're a small community per se and we need to wait until those dates have been set and the proceedings proceed, then we go from there," he said.

## 23RD

From Page 1

individuals are hospitalized as a result of COVID-19. Four are unvaccinated, four are vaccinated, and one is partially vaccinated. Two of the nine are on a ventilator.

In Guam, the 283rd COVID-19-related fatality was found deceased at a private residence on Nov. 1, 2021, and was pronounced dead at the Chief Medical Examiner's morgue on Nov. 3, 2021. The patient was a 63-year-old

male, unvaccinated, with underlying conditions. He tested positive on Oct. 14, 2021.

The 284th COVID-19-related fatality occurred at the Guam Memorial Hospital on Jan. 26, 2022. The patient was a 53-year-old female, unvaccinated, with underlying health conditions who tested positive on Jan. 4, 2022.

"Days of sadness are not yet behind us. While we remain steadfast in our effort to combat this virus through public health interventions, so many continue to mourn the loss of

loved ones," said Guam acting governor Josh Tenorio. "To all those who have had to experience grief during this time, Gov. Lou [Leon Guerrero], first gentleman Jeff [Cook], and I send our deepest condolences and sympathies."

Of the 4,564 cases that have been identified in the CNMI since March 26, 2020, there have already been 3,950 recoveries, 591 active cases, and 23 COVID-19-related deaths. Of all these cases, 2,066 were identified via contact tracing, 1,972 via

community testing, and 526 via travel testing.

CHCC continues to encourage the community to get vaccinated if they have not done so, or get their booster shot if they are eligible to help prevent severe illness, hospitalization, or death.

"Please seek care or test early if you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, as you may be eligible for monoclonal antibodies or other new treatment that are given soon after infection," it said. *(Saipan Tribune)*

## KILILI

From Page 1

puzzle with enactment of her bill repealing a 100% tax on the Earned Income Tax Credit imposed by the Legislature in 1998.

The Commonwealth Department of Finance has estimated the EITC, as it is called, will put \$25 million into the pockets of lower income wage-earners in the Marianas yearly.

"Now that Marianas taxpayers will once again be able to receive the earned income tax credit," Delegate Sablan said, "I want to be sure that everyone who is eligible will know what they need to do to obtain this substantial monetary benefit."

"We also included in the American Rescue Plan Act up to \$50,000 annually for the Commonwealth government to educate taxpayers on how to collect the earned income tax credit," he added. "I hope the Department of Finance will put that money to good use."

## What is the Earned Income Tax Credit?

The Earned Income Tax Credit is an offset against taxes owed. A taxpayer who owes \$100 in taxes and has a \$70 credit would only have to pay \$30.

The EITC is also refundable. This means that any amount of the credit not used to offset taxes owed is paid directly to the tax filer. If no taxes are owed, the entire EITC is paid to the tax filer. In this respect, the EITC is the same as the child tax credit, which was also made fully refundable for 2021

by the American Rescue Plan.

How much each taxpayer receives in EITC depends on several factors including their age, marital status, number of dependents, and income. Single taxpayers without children, for instance, only qualify if their adjusted gross income in 2021 is less than \$21,430. For a married taxpayer with three or more children the adjusted gross income limit is \$57,414.

Adjusted gross income (line 11 on the CNMI 1040) is the total of wages, interest, retirement, and other income minus educator expenses, student loan interest, and other allowable deductions.

## Who is eligible?

There are eight general criteria for eligibility for the EITC:

- The taxpayer must file an income tax return.

- The taxpayer must have earned income.

- The taxpayer must meet certain residency requirements.

- The taxpayer's children must meet relationship, residency, and age requirements to be considered qualifying children for the credit.

- Childless workers who claim the credit must be between ages 25 and 64.

- The taxpayer's investment income must be below a certain amount.

- The taxpayer must not have previously fraudulently claimed the EITC.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## HELL

From Page 1

"go to hell" in reaction to a comment the chairman made about the cranes.

It came to a point where casino commissioner Mariano Taitano had to tell Yumul to calm down and not yell at them as they're just frustrated because the IPI cranes pose a hazard to the surrounding businesses.

In his report to the board about IPI's actions to remove the tower cranes, Yumul said that IPI and CCC are both constrained by funding and have had to cut staff. He said that IPI is reaching a point where they can only do so much with what they have.

"It's not my decision. It's not my funding. I'm trying to help the community. And if you're going to sit there in the Philippines and tell me that I'm being ridiculous, you can



Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC chief executive officer Ray N. Yumul provides an update on IPI's operation to remove three tower cranes during the Commonwealth Casino Commission board's monthly meeting yesterday at the Springs Plaza Building in Gualo Rai. **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**

go to hell," Yumul told DeLeon Guerrero, who is in the Philippines for personal reason and had joined the meeting via a video call.

He assured, though, that the

tower cranes are going to be taken down. "I am doing everything in my financial power now. I only have so much," said Yumul, pounding on the podium. That's when Taitano

admonished Yumul to calm down and not yell at them.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## AIRLINES

From Page 1

During a Marianas Visitors Authority board meeting this week, managing director Priscilla Iakopo said that Jeju Air and T'Way Airlines, two low-budget carriers based in Incheon that provide daily scheduled flights under the current travel bubble agreement, will resume flights in the first week of February.

Earlier this month, T'way Air decided to suspend its two-flights-a-week schedule

until Jan. 28. Jeju Air ceased its Busan-Saipan route since Jan. 12.

Come next week, both airlines will be providing Incheon-based flights. However, the CNMI will still see travelers from Busan, thanks to the current charter in place with Air Busan.

During the same board meeting, majority of the MVA board voted in favor of subsidizing six Air Busan charter flights starting Jan. 23 in partnership with Micronesia Resort Inc.

Micronesia Resort Inc. operates the Kensington Hotel Saipan, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, and Coral Ocean Resort Saipan.

Air Busan's first flight arrived on Jan. 23, and the next flight is expected on Jan. 30. There will also be four Air Busan charters flying into the CNMI on Feb. 6, 13, 20, and 27 under this agreement.

Air Busan passengers will receive incentives such as travel bucks that will go directly to the passenger.

In addition, MVA will also

provide a \$10,000 subsidy per flight will go to directly to MRI, which is essentially spearheading the charter.

Air Busan currently only offers flights on two international routes: from the southern port city of Busan to Qingdao in China, and from Busan to Saipan.

It was learned that the airline previously provided a Busan-Guam flight but has dropped Guam after establishing a charter with Saipan pursuant to the travel bubble agreement.



## CCERA to temporarily suspend accepting applications

Due to the high volume of pre-application packets received at the Commonwealth COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program and given the limited amount of federal funding available for this type of assistance, the CCERA management has decided to suspend accepting new applications starting Feb. 14, 2022.

According to Epiphany E. Cabrera Jr., who is the administrator for the Office of Grants Management, "For ERA1 funding, the program has an available funding slightly above \$3 million, and there are still many clients that are newly applying and those that are waiting for their rental assistance to be fully processed. We need to make sure that we have enough funding available to assist those that have already applied and are deemed eligible."

"Currently, our CCERA case workers, inspectors, auditors, and coordinators are working actively to ensure that our clients, especially those with a 30% to 50% AMI (Area Median Income) level are quickly reviewed and assisted. Assistance to our clients include rental arrears, prospective rent, utility assistance for renters, and housing stability assistance. An average of 12 to 15 months of rental assistance is provided to eligible clients or households," Cabrera added.

CCERA is still experiencing some issues with businesses that lack a MUNIS vendor number and those lacking a business license. Thus many of these rental invoices are not processed for payment because we cannot load an invoice entry without sufficient vendor clearance. For MUNIS vendor

assistance, visit the Division of Procurement Services on the first floor of the Horiguchi Building in Garapan or call 670-664-1508.

CCERA is strongly encouraging the public that would like to submit an application, or those who have not provided the required documentation for their existing application, to do so before the suspension deadline of Feb. 14, 2022, by 4:30pm. All applications must be completed and submitted by the deadline.

Furthermore, with the dwindling funds, CCERA will soon suspend its utility voucher assistance. A pre-payment of \$325,000 was made to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. at the end of December 2021, and once these funds have been exhausted by eligible clients and households, the utility voucher assistance will cease.

"This general notice is expected because emergency assistance funding is not limitless; the program does not want individuals or households to be caught off guard when this assistance abruptly ends. Financial planning is crucial, especially in times of an ongoing health pandemic. CCERA urges its clients to plan ahead and start seeking other sources of financial housing assistance. Subsequently, should additional funding become available, CCERA will resume its appli-

cation intake," Cabrera stated.

The CCERA program has assisted the community with over \$6 million in housing rental assistance and over \$500,000 in utility assistance since May 2021. Over 1,200 households have been assisted during this timeframe. "The progressive assistance to our renting community is a testament to the

hardworking staff and management at the CCERA Program," Cabrera said.

The understanding, patience, and cooperation of the public is greatly appreciated as CCERA tries its best to assist the community with its emergency rental needs. For more information, contact the CCERA program at 670-682-7368 (RENT). (PR)

## 'Presumptive eligibility' for Medicaid extended to April

Presumptive eligibility for Medicaid is extended to April 2022 for the CNMI. To see if you qualify or to learn more, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. asks you to call the CHCC Care and Resource Assistance Office at (670) 234-8950 Ext. 3502.

CHCC announced the extension Wednesday and said it will be sharing further updates.

Presumptive eligibility, or PE, is an expedited process of

enrolling eligible residents into the CNMI Medicaid program. It allows patients to have their care covered while waiting for their application to be fully processed.

It offers immediate access to health care while applying for regular Medicaid or other health coverage. You can start using PE for Medicaid coverage right away for Medicaid covered services, such as doctor visits, hospital care, and

some prescription drugs."

Starting the day you are approved for PE, you are able to go to any health care provider that accepts Medicaid.

Individuals and families are eligible for Medicaid if their attested gross income does not exceed 180% of the Supplemental Security Income federal benefit, which is about \$28,800 annually for a family of four. (Joshua Santos)

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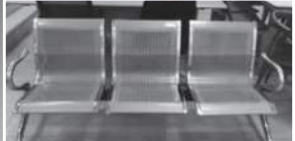
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# Man allegedly found with over a pound of 'ice' detained until trial

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has granted the government's request to detain until his trial a man who is accused of harboring over one pound of methamphetamine or "ice" at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Following a preliminary hearing yesterday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Manglona found probable cause to try Qui Shou, also known as Ike, for one count of possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance (methamphetamine), and one count of possession of a firearm in furtherance of a

drug trafficking crime.

The judge remanded Qui back to the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service and also granted the government's motion for detention pending trial.

Manglona ordered Qui be brought back to court for an arraignment on Tuesday, Feb. 1, at 11 a.m.

During the hearing yesterday, the court heard testimony from Michael Pangelinan, an NMI Drug Enforcement Task Force officer.

Qui was represented by attorneys Robert Torres and Charity Hodson while Garth

Backe appeared in behalf of the U.S. government.

Over a week ago, over 1.6 lbs of methamphetamine was uncovered in two rooms at the Hyatt Regency Saipan that was being rented out by Qui for the past six months.

Aside from the large quantity of meth found in his room, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration also found two handguns with ammunition, a large amount of cash, over 4,000 small Ziplock baggies, and a few glass pipes with residue that tested positive for methamphetamine.

According to court documents, DEA special agent Kirk F. Johns said that a room on the sixth floor of Hyatt Regency Saipan had been under surveillance for the past few months before they executed the search warrant on Jan. 12, 2022.

Qui, through an interpreter, told the agents that all the illegal items found in the rooms are his and that his female companion and his father had nothing to do with them.

Qui said he was mainly supplied by two people who would give him between 100 grams and 500 grams, depend-

ing on his sales.

In regards to the handguns, Qui said they were given to him by one of his suppliers for protection. *(Kimberly B. Esmores)*

## Warrant out for 'ice' dealer who did not board flight

An arrest warrant has been issued for a man who was to be deported after serving an over five-year sentence for distributing methamphetamine but failed to board his flight from the U.S. Mainland to China.

Last Wednesday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Manglona granted the U.S. Office of Probation Office's request to issue a warrant for the arrest of Chen Zhaopeng, a man who has served a 63-month prison sentence for his involvement in the shipment of 4.9 lbs of methamphetamine, or "ice," to the CNMI back in 2015.

Chen, who received an Expedited Removal Order from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement but failed to depart the U.S. mainland as ordered, has yet to be brought before the court.

According to the U.S. Probation Office, Chen failed to board his deportation flight to China that was scheduled to depart from Los Angeles International Airport on Oct. 31, 2021, at 11:55 p.m.

As of Dec. 12, 2021, the New York U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Enforcement Removal Office has deemed Chen of "absconder" status, meaning he is now considered a fugitive who is running away or hiding to avoid arrest or prosecution.

Court documents state that Chen completed his term of imprisonment with the Bureau of Prisons on May 22, 2020. However, he remained in custody because of an immigration detainer and warrant of arrest lodged by U.S. ICE on June 26, 2018.

Then, on April 29, 2020, Chen was served with an Expedited Removal Order and was temporarily placed under the supervision of the New York ICE Enforcement and Removal Office pending his deportation to China.

Chen boarded a flight from LaGuardia Airport to Los Angeles International Airport on Oct. 30, 2021, with the final destination being Xiamen, China. However, he failed to board his connecting flight in Los Angeles.

Chen was found guilty of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine following his trial back in September 2016.

Chen was sentenced to 63 months in prison with credit for 379 days of time served. *(Kimberly B. Esmores)*

### COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.  
PO BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950  
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 | FAX: (1-670) 234-5962  
E-MAIL ADDRESS: CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM | WEBSITE: WWW.CNMPORTS.COM

#### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF TYPHOON RESISTANT ACCORDION ALUMINUM SHUTTERS TINIAN SEAPORT BUILDING, TINIAN

##### PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-001-22

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals (the "RFP") and other contract provisions, for awarding a contract to supply and install typhoon resistant accordion aluminum shutters at the Tinian Seaport Building, Tinian, CNMI. The Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the CPA because the CPA wishes to acquire services and or products that cannot be evaluate by cost alone (NMIAC §40-50-225 (a)). The Scope of Work and other considerations will be available for pick up beginning **January 12, 2022**, upon payment of \$50.00 in cash, cashier's check or certified check to the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport.

Proposals will be received at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor-Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport no later than **2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, February 11, 2022**. Proposals received after the date/time indicated above will not be opened and will be returned to the Proposer. Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO  
Executive Director

Date

### DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS CNMI GOVERNMENT

#### INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: DPW/SWMD22-ITB No.: 42200035

SUBMISSION DATE: February 14, 2022 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

#### "Procurement of Services for Removal, Packaging, Containment, and Shipping of E-Waste Materials Collected at the Lower Base Transfer Station"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **January 14, 2022** at the Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan.

A non-refundable payment of **Fifty Dollars (\$50.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the **Scope of Work at the Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Transfer Station required for each set.**

There will be a **Mandatory Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **February 02, 2022**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Solid Waste Management Division Conference Room, Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **January 20, 2022** to **Mr. Blas T. Mafnas, Acting Director of Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Transfer Station**, Saipan or fax to (670) 322-2762. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ JAMES A. ADA  
SECRETARY, DPW

/s/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON  
ACTING DIRECTOR,  
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

### COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.  
PO BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950  
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 | FAX: (1-670) 234-5962  
E-MAIL ADDRESS: CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM | WEBSITE: WWW.CNMPORTS.COM

#### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF TYPHOON RESISTANT ACCORDION ALUMINUM SHUTTERS AT THE ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE TERMINALS SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

##### PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-002-22

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals (the "RFP") and other contract provisions, for awarding a contract to supply and install typhoon resistant accordion aluminum shutters on the windows and doors along the front side of the arrival and departure terminals, Saipan International Airport, Saipan, CNMI. The Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the CPA because the CPA wishes to acquire services and or products that cannot be evaluate by cost alone (NMIAC §40-50-225 (a)). The Scope of Work and other considerations will be available for pick up beginning **January 12, 2022**, upon payment of \$100.00 in cash, cashier's check or certified check to the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport.

Proposals will be received at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor-Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport no later than **2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, February 11, 2022**. Proposals received after the date/time indicated above will not be opened and will be returned to the Proposer. Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO  
Executive Director

Date

### COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.  
PO BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950  
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 | FAX: (1-670) 234-5962  
WEBSITE: WWW.CNMPORTS.COM

#### REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

##### PORT OF SAIPAN CPA OFFICE LEAK REPAIRS PROJECT NO. CPA-SS-001-22

The Commonwealth Ports Authority's (CPA) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations, CPA is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested consultants for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Design Services for the CPA Office Leak Repairs at the Captain George F. Fleming Memorial Building at the Port of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, Project No. CPA-SS-001-22.

These services are being funded by CPA and is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations, Section 40-50-202, Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Administration Office, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. Electronic copies may be made available upon written request to Ms. Wendi Prater, CPA's Executive Assistant/Project Manager, at wprater@cnmports.com or Ms. Sheri N. Llagas at cpa.receptionist@pticom.com.

Questions or inquiries regarding this request for qualification statements must be submitted to Ms. Prater via email at wprater@cnmports.com or hand delivered to the CPA Administration Office by no later than **5:00 p.m. CHST, Friday, January 14, 2022**.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

Interested consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m. CHST, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2022**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO  
Executive Director

Date: December 28, 2021



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**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation****REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES  
CUC-RAESP-22-002****A&E SURVEY SERVICES FOR THE DANDAN HOMESTEAD WATERLINE AND SERVICE  
LATERAL REPLACEMENT (W20-074)**

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for the Survey Services of the DanDan Homestead Waterline and Service Lateral Replacement in DanDan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

*This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this contract is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.*

Prospective Proposers for this RAESP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RAESP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government-observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one RASEP package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **January 19, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Proposal and One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal in a separate envelope** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **“CUC-RAESP-22-002, A&E Survey Services for DanDan Homestead Waterline and Service Lateral Replacement”**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 8, 2022. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.**

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant's preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAESP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAESP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 24, 2022** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to Mr. Larry Manacop, CUC Water/Wastewater, Acting Chief Engineer – via email [larry.manacop@cucgov.org](mailto:larry.manacop@cucgov.org); Mr. Kennet Jann R. Bernardo, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email [kennet.bernardo@cucgov.org](mailto:kennet.bernardo@cucgov.org) and Ms. Christie L. Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Technician Senior – via email [christie.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:christie.sablan@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO  
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN  
Purchasing Administrator

**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation****INVITATION FOR BIDS  
CUC-IFB-22-010****PROVISION OF OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE, AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES  
FOR THE POWER PLANT AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM ON THE ISLAND OF TINIAN**

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the provision of operations, maintenance, and management services for the Power Plant and Distribution System on the Island of Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government-observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **\$200.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **“CUC-IFB-22-010, Operations, Maintenance, and Management Services for The Power Plant and Distribution System on the island of Tinian”** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on February 22, 2022** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

**Questions or requests for clarification** will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on February 1, 2022**, to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to Marcela Tenorio at [marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org](mailto:marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org), and Christie Sablan at [christie.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:christie.sablan@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO  
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN  
Purchasing Administrator

**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation  
Office of the Executive Director****INVITATION FOR BIDS  
CUC-IFB-22-013****Lower Base Sewer Phase 2 – Gravity Mains**

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Lower Base Sewer Phase 2 – Gravity Mains in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The intent of the contract is for the Contractor to provide all labor, equipment, supplies and materials necessary to complete the scope of work which consists of the installation of sewer gravity mains, manholes, sewer laterals and connections to the new sewer system, connection to the existing sewer on Isa Drive, concrete encasement of new sewer mains, utility crossings, restoration of site pavement, temporary soil erosion control, temporary traffic control, and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the sewer and water system. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

*The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.*

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government-observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **\$200.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **January 12, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

**One (1) original and Five (5) copies** of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **“CUC-IFB-22-013, Lower Base Sewer Phase 2 – Gravity Mains”** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 1, 2022**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one Hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on January 18, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email address [nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org](mailto:nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org) and to Christie Sablan, P&S, Senior Administrative Technician – [christie.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:christie.sablan@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO  
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN  
Purchasing Administrator

**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation****INVITATION FOR BIDS  
CUC-IFB-22-015****SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT**

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the supply and delivery of heavy equipment for its fleet in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

***This project is funded from the United States Department of the Interior (US DOI), Office of the Insular Affairs (OIA).***

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government-observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **“CUC-IFB-22-015, Supply and Delivery of Heavy Equipment”** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on February 3, 2022** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on January 20, 2022**, to Manny B. Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator, via email [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with copies to Yvonne C. Ogumoro, CUC's Acting Water/Wastewater Division Manager via email at [yvonne.ogumoro@cucgov.org](mailto:yvonne.ogumoro@cucgov.org) and Christie L. Sablan, CUC's Senior Administrative Technician at [christie.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:christie.sablan@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO  
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN  
Purchasing Administrator



# OVA seeks improved prescription meds process for CNMI veterans



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs executive officer Stanley T. Iakopo, third from left, shares a photo with some officials from the Veterans Affairs Honolulu Regional Office after a meeting last week in Hawaii. Iakopo visited the office last week to meet with officials and discuss a variety of challenges faced by veterans living in the CNMI.

By JOSHUA SANTOS  
joshua\_santos@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs executive officer Stanley T. Iakopo recently brought the challenges that CNMI veterans face when trying to obtain their medication prescriptions to the attention of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in Honolulu in a bid to make the process easier and more cost-effective.

Iakopo, who visited the VA Honolulu Regional Office in Hawaii last week to meet with VA officials, said that the CNMI's lone hospital does not carry VA insurance, and as such, if a veteran were to pick up prescription medications at the hospital pharmacy, they would need to pay for it out of pocket.

Select private pharmacies on Saipan accept VA insurance

though, said Iakopo. However, there are still challenges for veterans picking up medications at these pharmacies. Iakopo explained that, although these select pharmacies carry VA insurance, they are not authorized to fully fill a veteran's prescriptions—the prescriptions are filled by the VA Regional Office in Honolulu, who mail the medication from Hawaii to the CNMI, which Iakopo said takes two weeks or longer for the medication to arrive.

Taking into account how relatively isolated the CNMI is as well as possible transport delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and/or any other reason, waiting two weeks or longer for much-needed medical prescriptions for veterans is "unacceptable."

"It's unacceptable to our veterans [to] wait two to three weeks for medication. ...A

veteran might have extenuating medical problems [that may be] worsened while waiting for the mail-order prescriptions. This whole process will adversely affect the veteran," said Iakopo.

While veterans wait for their mail-order prescriptions, these select private pharmacies dispense a week's worth of medication, which veterans will have to pay for up front, as they will have to wait on reimbursement from the VA.

To address these challenges, Iakopo suggested during his meeting that the VA Regional Office give the CNMI's select private pharmacies who already carry VA insurance the authority to fully fill veterans' prescriptions.

"A lot of veterans don't have that kind of money. Some medications are \$100, \$50. ...What if you have three medicines? ...This is something that I

raised to [the] Regional Office. ...Why not use the existing pharmacies that are accepting VA [insurance] coverage for medication [so that] they can dispense [medication to veterans] right then and there," said Iakopo.

At the core of his meeting, Iakopo told *Saipan Tribune*,

is that he would like to keep the VA Regional Office accountable for the CNMI's veterans and to urge the office to work closely with the CNMI's pharmacies to improve the process in which veterans living on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota receive their prescription medication.

"The whole reason I had this meeting is to ensure that our veterans are getting the proper care, treatment, and services in the CNMI [and to] also ensure that the [VA Regional Office] is held accountable for the services and the treatment for our veterans here," said Iakopo.



## NORTHERN MARIANAS TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

P.O. Box 504880 Saipan MP 96950  
Tel. No.: (670) 323.6601  
Procurement Office

## Board of Trustee Vacancy Announcement

### Vacancy Announcement # 2022 – 001

#### Details of this Vacancy:

This announcement is to fill the following vacancy for a:  
• Saipan Business Representative

#### Number of Vacancies: 2

For the remaining term set to expire March 11, 2026.  
(Insert Date)

#### Qualifications for Board of Trustees:

Qualifications of a Board member consist of the following:

- A legal domiciliary of the CNMI and a U.S. Citizen.
- Of legal adult voting age within the CNMI. In this particular vacancy, the adult must be a registered voter at their respective islands; and
- A demonstrated capacity for representing the CNMI's career and technical training fields relative to meeting the overall purpose of NMTI.

No person may become a Trustee while a CNMI government or NMTI employee, or until one year after the conclusion of CNMI government or NMTI employment.

#### How to submit interest:

To submit interest to serve on the Northern Marianas Technical Institute Board of Trustees, kindly email a letter of interest and your resume to: [bot@nmtechnmi.org](mailto:bot@nmtechnmi.org)

#### Due date:

Closing Date: **02/04/2022**



## The Mobility Space is Getting Greener in the Northern Mariana Islands

The mobility space is getting greener in the Northern Mariana Islands, as Enterprise Saipan announced today that it has acquired hybrid vehicles as part of its fleet of vehicles serving Saipan.

This investment not only supports demand for safe and reliable mobility options during the COVID-19 crisis but also demonstrates Enterprise's commitment to supporting local economies and driving forward environmentally friendly modes of transportation across the islands as they move out of travel restrictions.

Enterprise Saipan also upholds its commitment to maintaining the highest standards of cleanliness in the car rental industry through the implementation of the Enterprise Complete Clean Pledge.

The Pledge further enhances cleaning protocols across Enterprise Holdings' brands and comprehensive portfolio of transportation options. This includes vehicle washing, vacuuming, general wipe down, and sanitizing with a disinfectant that meets leading health authority requirements, with particular attention to more than 20 high-touch points.



[www.enterprise.com](http://www.enterprise.com) | Email: [reservations@ehiglobalsaipan.com](mailto:reservations@ehiglobalsaipan.com)

Corporate Office (Airport Road) (670) 288-4400 • Hotline: (671) 888-6055 • (670) 285-4405



## DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950  
Gualo Rai Center, Saipan, TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315  
[www.dcrm.gov.mp](http://www.dcrm.gov.mp)



## NOTICE OF APPLICATION

### As of January 28, 2022

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Department of Public Lands	10/20/2021 SMS-2001-X-213-A1	Koblerville Homestead	Koblerville, Saipan	Major Siting	Final Determination
2. Commonwealth Ports Authority	10/22/2021 TMS-97-X-294-A1	Tinian Airport Parking Lot Expansion	Tinian	Major Siting	Final Determination
3. Micronesia Resort Inc. dba Kensington Hotel Saipan	12/29/2021 SLRm-2022-012	Aqua Park Inflatable Replacement	San Roque, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*
4. Department of Public Works	01/07/2022 SWm-2022-013	Hazard Elimination on & 34 Isa Drive & Kagman Road Intersection	Kagman, Saipan	Wetlands & Mangrove	Approved* 01/20/2022
5. Pacific Marine Enterprises, Inc.	01/24/2022 SPIm-2022-014	Drydock – M/V Pacific Marine 1	Lowerbase, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Under Review*

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (\*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.



# Opinion

Hafa Adair

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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### EDITORIAL

## Trial of 3 officers in George Floyd's death is latest test of American justice

**P**olice abuse of power often involves not only the abuser but also other officers who enable the abuse through inaction and silence. They are virtually never prosecuted, meaning that a crucial precedent could be set with the trial that began Monday for the three former Minneapolis police officers who did nothing to forcefully intervene as Derek Chauvin murdered George Floyd.

The case against Chauvin, convicted last year, was straightforward: Video from a bystander documented how the white officer knelt on the neck of his Black victim for more than nine minutes on May 25, 2020, ignoring Floyd's pleas that he couldn't breathe and refusing to move until after Floyd's body had gone limp. Despite that overwhelming evidence, the trial was a nail-biter because of juries' historic reluctance to convict police officers in even the most egregious instances of abuse. The guilty verdict was in every way a victory for justice and a sign of societal change for the better.

The federal trial that started Monday for Chauvin's fellow officers in some ways poses an even greater test for the evolution of American justice. The officers are accused of violating Floyd's civil rights with their failure to intervene as they witnessed Chauvin's abuse. The legal concept that police officers have a duty to prevent fellow officers from violating citizens' rights has long been in law, but it is almost never enforced.

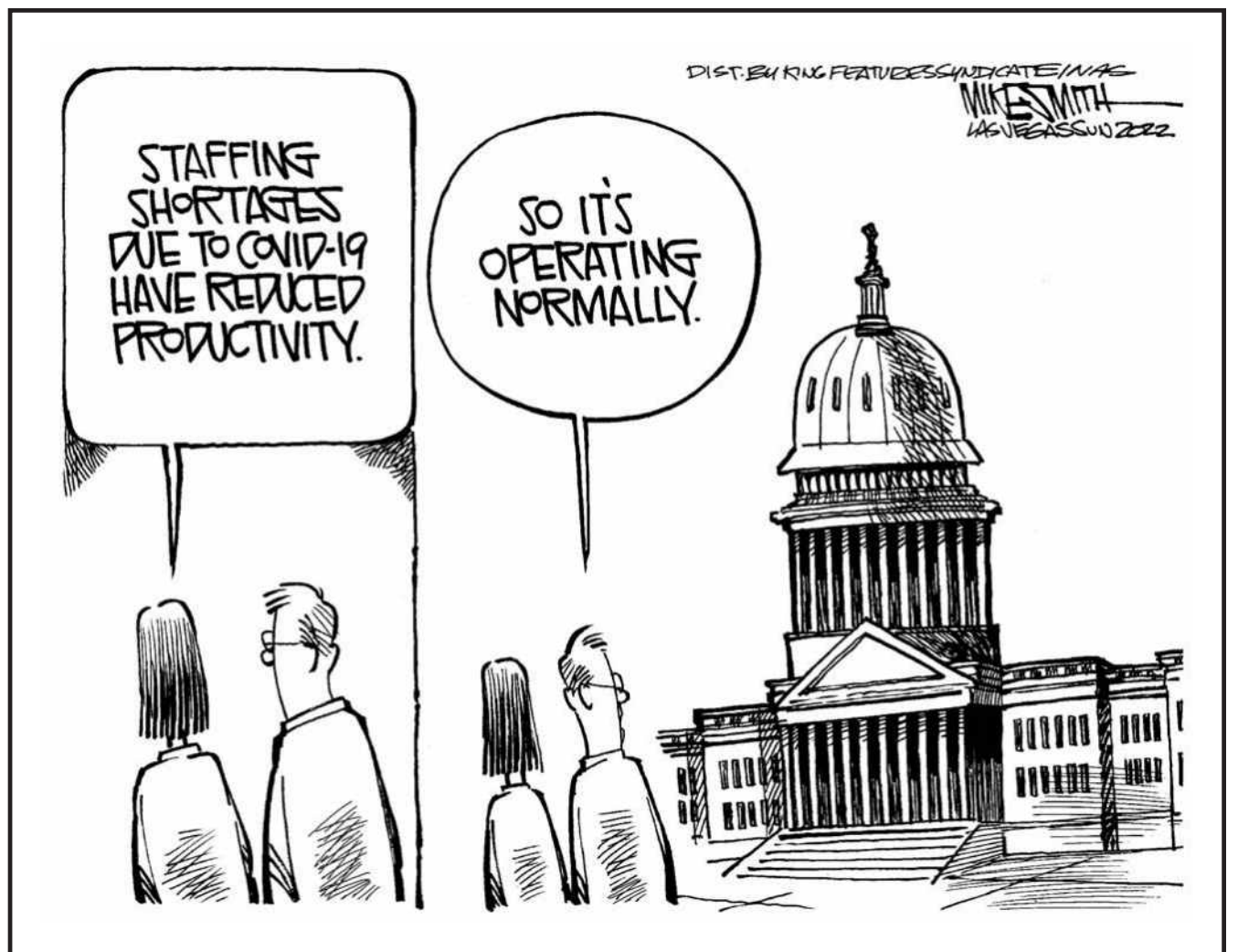
All three of the officers—J. Alexander Kueng, Thomas K. Lane and Tou Thao—are accused of failing to render medical attention to Floyd; two of them, Kueng and Thao, are additionally accused of failure to intervene in the assault. The case here is more complicated than Chauvin's trial for several reasons.

Lane did suggest to Chauvin at least twice that he should reposition Floyd. Whether that proves that Lane attempted to do the right thing, or merely proves that he understood the danger to Floyd's life and should have done more to save it, is a valid debate. Thao, who held back the crowd that gathered around the incident, claims he didn't know what was going on behind his back, though video from the scene indicates he did turn and look several times.

Obviously the jury should consider all of these facts in context—along with the fact that Chauvin outranked them in seniority (two were rookies), and they may have felt they didn't have the authority to more forcefully intervene against him.

But there is also a broader context that cannot be ignored: America's police culture is notorious for circling the wagons around its wrongdoers. If the jury determines, based on the evidence, that the various defense explanations don't justify the officers' inaction—and that evidence shows it to be another example of the blue wall of silence—judgment should be unyielding.

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## Americans aren't in a party mood (politically speaking)

**A**merican voters have been trying to tell political parties and elected officials what they want, and perhaps more importantly, what they don't want. The question remains, will they ever listen? Will things ever change?

The Gallup poll has been asking voters the following question for at least once a month since 2004: "In politics, as of today, do you consider yourself a Republican, a Democrat or an independent?" In December, they found that 42% of respondents consider themselves independents while 26% consider themselves Republicans, and 30% consider themselves Democrats.

Gallup notes this reflects a "broader trend toward an increasing share of political independents [that] has been clear over the past decade. At least four in 10 Americans have considered themselves independents in all years since 2011, except for the 2016 and 2020 presidential election years. Before 2011, independent identification had never reached 40%."

While reviewing the historical data, I found that the highest percentage of those who consider themselves independent was in late January and early February of last year—a post-Jan. 6 effect?—with an eye-popping 50%.

Gallup then asked those who identified as independent to pick which of the two main parties they leaned toward more. On average, 8% identified as not leaning either way while 17% said they leaned Democrat and 16% leaned Republican. Political scientists consider the independents who responded with an ambivalent party preference as "leaners." Leaners consistently vote for their political party at almost the same rates as people who answered Democrat or Republican to the first question. But these leaners are only that, they lean toward one of the two parties. It is important to recognize that they do not want to identify themselves with either party, nor do they want to pledge their loyalty to either party.

The election results of 2020 seem to coincide with the above data. Joe Biden won the presidency at a time when there was significant ticket splitting down ballot. In other words, voters may have voted for the Democratic candidate for president and voted for Republican candidates in other statewide and local races.

So what should we make of the fact that more voters identify themselves as independents than as Democrats or Republicans?

Americans appear to be unhappy with both political parties, and it is hurting our democracy.

The trend of voters who do not want to identify with one of the two political poles may suggest that there is a rejection of the nation's bitter political polarization. Or voters view the two political parties through the lens of their extremes. Voters who

**By LYNN SCHMIDT**  
St. Louis Post-Dispatch



Lynn Schmidt is a columnist and Editorial Board member of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

lean Democratic may not want to identify with the overly woke progressives. Voters who lean Republican may not want to associate with conspiracy-theory-driven kooks.

A recent NBC news poll has some more harsh statistics: 72% of Americans "say the country is headed in the wrong direction;" 70% "agree with the statement that America has become so polarized that it can no longer solve the major issues facing the country—and that those differences will only continue to grow;" and a whopping 76% of Americans believe there is "a threat to democracy and majority rule in this country."

In his book "Breaking the Two-Party Doom Loop: The Case for Multiparty Democracy in America," political scientist Lee Drutman describes how "the two-party system is breaking our democracy, and driving us all crazy." Drutman wrote the following in 2020, before the election: "As the stakes rise, the fighting toughens, it becomes harder to agree on what's fair. Disputes divide the country further. Meanwhile, little gets done. ... The parties double-down on the national identity questions that divide them, raising the stakes further yet." This self-feeding loop results in "recycling the toxicity back into the system."

Have no fear, Drutman goes on to describe the way this loop can be broken: a multiparty democracy in America. He also shares the steps needed to reform our electoral system to make that happen. A few of the steps in Drutman's solution include ranked-choice voting, eliminating congressional primaries, and increasing the size of the House of Representatives.

America used to have four factions within the named two-party system. The four factions were: liberal Democrats, conservative Democrats, liberal Republicans and conservative Republicans. These factions broke up in the 1990s, and we've been barreling toward increasing dysfunction ever since, where moderates no longer have a voice.

Drutman offers hope, provided we don't wait too long. He proposes steps that can be taken to heal our fractured democracy. It is time that the 42% start demanding representation and reform.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## Lunar New Year is a significant time for Asian communities throughout the Marianas

While most countries around the world celebrated New Year's Day, the Asian communities of Saipan are anticipating the Lunar New Year, commonly called the Spring Festival by the Chinese community and Seollal by the Korean community. The Lunar New Year will be celebrated on Tuesday, Feb. 1, ushering in renewal and good luck for the year ahead.



we'd "amen" or give blessings to the elderly.

Most people have experienced the Lunar New Year's famous red lion dance. The lion would move to the beat of the drums playing in the background. This iconic experience signifies the chasing of evil spirits that may be lurking around you, which is why we give out hongbao, the red envelope filled with money, to family and friends. The envelopes are gifts of good wishes and good luck for the years ahead.

On behalf of our local Chinese community, I encourage everyone to stop by Feb. 1 to enjoy the lion dance in front of the TSL Plaza at 10am or the JP Center at 10:20am. It is a great time to embrace the positive traditions of the Lunar New Year like getting rid of the bad and old and welcoming the new and the good.

For our Chinese community, the Marianas may be a second home, but we take pride in being a part of the local community. We will continue to do our part to help make the Marianas a great place to live for all its residents. One of our biggest projects continues to be the adoption of the Susupe Beach Park through GCEA's Public Private Partnership program. We have committed to maintaining it for the next five years.

We look forward to the Year of the Tiger and more positive things to come for the Marianas. *Gong Xi Fa Cai* (Happy New Year)! (Rose Chan)

### Korean Community of Saipan celebrates Seollal by connecting with family

The Korean Community refers to the Lunar New Year as "Seollal," which is the most celebrated holiday in South Korea. It's celebrated to mark the passage into a new year, and it is a time for families to gather together, pay respect to our ancestors, and feast. Seollal's celebration lasts for three days, starting the day before and ending the day after the Lunar New Year.

In the week leading up to Seollal on Saipan, we shop for gifts, like

### TOGETHER, WE CAN By ROSE CHAN AND YU, JI KWANG

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Rose Chan is the vice president of the Chinese Association of Saipan and Yu, Ji Kwang is the chairman of the Korean Community of Saipan.

fresh fruits or gift baskets, to give to our friends or neighbors. We don't celebrate Seollal on Saipan as we do in Korea since it isn't a legal holiday on Saipan. Also, most Korean people on Saipan have their families and relatives in Korea, so we don't have large family gatherings on Saipan. However, on the day of Seollal, we celebrate by cooking Tteokguk, a rice cake soup, a common Seollal dish prepared at home to share with friends and neighbors. Family members dress up or wear the traditional Korean dress called *hanbok* and gather in front of a table prepared for the ancestral rite.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the Korean Community of Saipan used to host a Seollal party. Korean businesspeople would donate cash, food, and presents for the festival. We'd have about 400-500 people who would attend and enjoy our Seollal party. Amidst the pandemic, we will keep everyone safe by celebrating at home and calling our families in Korea to catch up on what we've missed.

The Korean Community of Saipan would like to wish everyone a Happy Lunar New Year or *Saehae Bok Mani Badeuseyo!* This year, we hope that the pandemic will end, and our visitors will be able to return. From our community to yours, we wish you a safe and wonderful year! (Yu, Ji Kwang)

For more information, visit the GCEA at [cnmieconomy.com](http://cnmieconomy.com), on Facebook and Instagram (@cnmigov.economy), or contact them at [gceacnmi@gmail.com](mailto:gceacnmi@gmail.com).

### Chinese Community of Saipan invites residents to enjoy Spring Festival

For as long as I've been on Saipan, I've celebrated the new year twice—first on Jan. 1 and then on Lunar New Year, what the Chinese community refers to as the "Spring Festival." 2022 marks the Year of the Tiger, the third animal in the Chinese zodiac.

Growing up, my family members would be working far away from home. They would make the journey home the day before Lunar New Year to celebrate. Long ago, my family would arrive by foot or horse and finally, they would be together before the big celebration. We'd have a big family feast and enjoy everyone's presence.

Traditionally, a week before the Spring Festival, Asian people will clean to sweep out bad luck from the previous year. In China, the Spring Festival signifies new beginnings and offers good luck for the rest of the year. Similar to the local community,

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Seriously?

I can't believe this guy. How can anybody take this guy seriously? He says one thing and does the complete opposite. "All they have to do is let me know when and I'll be there to answer any questions. I have nothing to hide." And the current "I did nothing illegal."

How much does one guy go from an extremely likable fellow to shouting "I did nothing illegal"?

What about morally or unethically? What about fiduciary duty? Your oath for office as a representative, senator, lieutenant governor, and now governor?

Hiring D.C.-based attorneys? At the people's expense? The bleeding has to stop!

I actually respected you once upon a time! Everything you're accused of is a very long list. Are they all lies?

And your response regarding the trips to the Northern Islands was to promote the NMI as a travel destination for "deer hunters"? Seriously? How many folks jumped on a plane to rush out here with their rifles and shotguns just to get precious *binadu*?

I almost put you in the same vein as former governor Benigno Fitial but at least he had the nerve to quit office.

You betrayed the public's trust and decided to do things your way. You wanted to look the part in front of everyone but you got greedy and went to town on the people's dime. How do you sleep at night knowing you did wrong? At least if you decide to resign you won't have to admit your guilt. You don't have to say anything other than "I quit." Doesn't your conscience bother you?

And now it's coming to an end where you're pretty much done with everyone and everything and it's starting to spin out of control. It's time to do the right thing before the crap hits the fan and you find yourself in handcuffs, or else a pink slip and a severance check that they might take back because of your lack of fiscal responsibility.

It's time for you to do the right thing and resign from office before it's too late and things spiral completely out of control.

Michael Geisinger  
via email

## On Time! Some poems for your homes

*"In the time of your life, live—so that in that wondrous time you shall not add to the misery and sorrow of the world, but shall smile to the infinite delight and mystery of it."*

—from *The Time of Your Life* by William Saroyan (1908–1981)

### Space Time Curving Around the Sun

Time flies, flees, brings COVID-19 virus disease  
it can pass slowly if you're having fun or not  
if anti vax anti mask or anxious not at ease  
when you get sick find out what it is you got

Time, tide, and taxes are said to wait for no man  
taxes have a deadline avoided by most of the rich  
middle class pays most, an upper-class cheating plan  
increases losses, decreases values, lies like a SOB

Time's on your side, can do no wrong, know the song  
"time has come today" as Chambers Bros. still sing  
it is time to come time to go time lasts all day long  
timing not right, time is tight, time's a yearly fling

"In the time of your life, live" don't do time for crime  
laugh cry love be happy and please take your time.

Tempon Uchan Gi Tasin Susupe  
(Rainy season on Susupe Beach)

### LITERARY NOOK

#### By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka Pepe Batbon is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.



*"sudden rain blots out day, thunders down.  
I search for empty blue sky, but it is gone."*






—Chinese poet, Wang Wei, (701-761 CE).

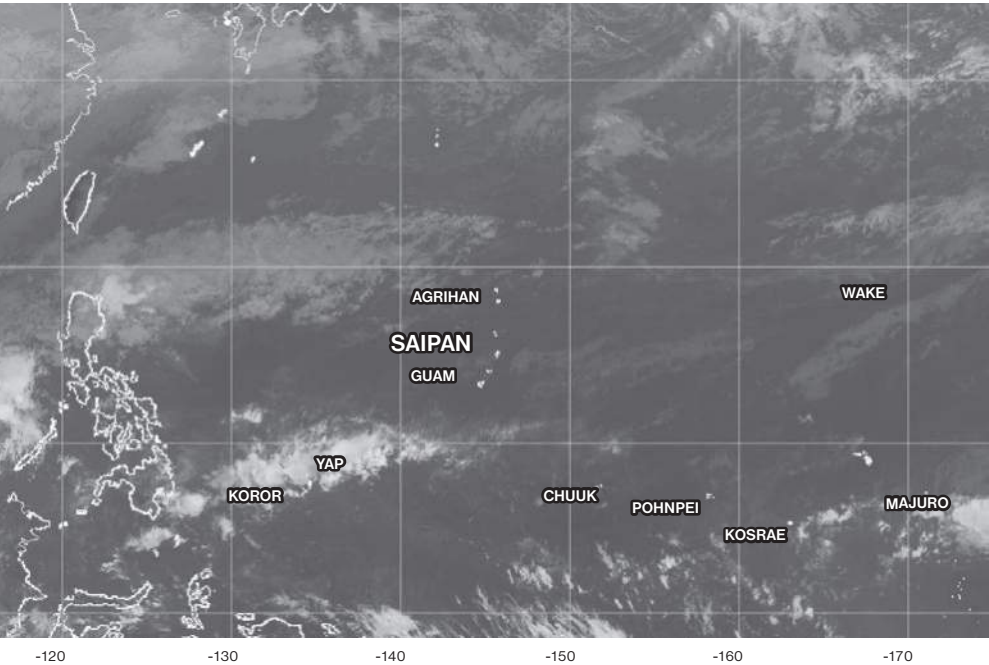
Intermittent rain on a gray overcast day  
not a trace of blue in the sky all day today  
tide shuffles in and out on Susupe Beach  
military prepositioning ships are out of reach  
I fear there is damage to CNMI coral reefs  
as anchors drag them for months on end  
perhaps not as bad as some local beliefs  
is there money to investigate left to spend  
the sky clears for a New Year's new moon  
mothers and dads bring infants into the water  
older children enter the blue lagoon soon  
learning to swim each son and daughter  
here on the beach a thrown talaya net  
catching \*e'e' tiao or mafuti you can bet.

\*Chamorro names for three kinds of small reef fish



# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
85°	75°	75°	85	86°	75°	76°	85°	76°	85°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:36 AM, THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A dry season weather pattern will persist through the forecast with only isolated showers expected.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

## STOP THE SPREAD

**T**he Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

**Continue good hand hygiene**

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

**Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic**

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
  - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
  - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

**Rumor control**

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

*Source: Office of the Governor*

onds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at [www.chcc.gov.mp](http://www.chcc.gov.mp) or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit [www.governor.gov.mp](http://www.governor.gov.mp) and follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at [www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19](http://www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19).

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website:[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

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MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	29 / 25 °F	
Palau	Thunderstorms	29 / 25 °F	
Yap	Isolated Thunderstorms	29 / 25 °F	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	29 / 27°F	
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	29 / 25 °F	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	29 / 26°F	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	29 / 27 °F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	06:46 AM	18:13 PM
Saturday	06:46 AM	18:13 PM
Sunday	06:46 AM	18:14 PM
Monday	06:46 AM	18:14 PM
Tuesday	06:46 AM	18:14 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	02:27	14:02 PM	-
Saturday	03:32	115:01 PM	-
Sunday	04:38	16:05 PM	-
Monday	05:42	17:11 AM	-
Tuesday	05:42	17:11 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	23 / 17 °F	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	2 / -9 °F	
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	20 / 17°F	
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	27 / 19 °F	
London	Cloudy	13 / 1 °F	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	23 / 8 °F	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	33 / 24 °F	
Melbourne	Thunderstorms	31 / 18 °F	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	24 / 12 °F	
New York	Cloudy	2 / -8°F	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	1 / 2 °F	
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	8 / 4 °F	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	8 / 1 °F	
Rome	AM Clouds/PM Sun	13 / 2 °F	
Salem	Mostly Sunny	14 / 2 °F	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	18 / 7 °F	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	2 / -89 °F	
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	8 / 3 °F	
Washington, DC	PM Snow Showers	4 / 6 °F	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
05:23 AM	High Tide	1.44	
09:49 AM	Low Tide	1.13	
3:07 PM	High Tide	1.73	
10:56 PM	Low Tide	-0.47	

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 23, 2022

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
<b>SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)</b>				<b>GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN</b>			
A117	7:20am	8:05am	2, 4, 6	UA116	5:30am	6:16am	2, 4, 6
UA117	9:50am	10:35am	1, 3, 5, 7	UA174	8:00am	8:46am	1, 3, 5, 7
<b>GUAM-MANILA (MNL)</b>				<b>MANILA (MNL)-GUAM</b>			
PR 111	6:30am	8:20am	1,3,5,7	PR110	10:15pm	4:00am+1	2,4,6,7
UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	Daily	UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	2, 5
				UA184	10:55pm	4:45am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)</b>				<b>MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN</b>			
7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	Every 4 days (Jan 29-Mar 2) 3, 6	UA184/174	10:40pm	6:16am+1	5 via Guam
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM		UA184/174	10:40pm	8:46am+1	2 via Guam
<b>SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)</b>				UA184/174	10:55pm	6:16am+1	1, 3 via Guam
7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	Every 4 days (Jan 29-Mar 2) 3, 6	UA184/174	10:55pm	8:46am+1	4, 6, 7 via Guam
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM		<b>INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN</b>			
<b>SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)</b>				C3405	8:30AM	2:10PM	Every 4 (Jan 29-Mar 2) 6
BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	6	OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	
<b>BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN</b>				X622	8:00AM	1:10PM	6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

### FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri Daily	3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri Daily
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM		3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	
<b>ROTA TO GUAM</b>				<b>GUAM TO ROTA</b>			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable
<b>GUAM TO TINIAN</b>				<b>SAIPAN TO TINIAN</b>			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	1203	9:00	9:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable



# Healthy Choices Healthy You

*Caring for your overall wellness*

## VOX POPULI

### In pursuit of wellness, balance, joy

"I'm slowly starting to realize happiness is a journey and a choice. I think saying 'a state of happiness' diminishes all the work and appreciation it takes you to be truly happy. It's almost impossible to be happy all the time, and when you're experiencing disappointment, grief, and loss, it makes you appreciate moments of lightness and happiness that much more. Happiness, to me, is a collection of small moments, where you're truly present. In the ocean, diving or surfing, there is nothing else you can focus on but being in the moment. Out on a starry Saipan winter night, there's a significant feeling of contentment and happiness. To say one is happy all the time is unfair and not true, but collections of moments in the water and with friends are some of the times I'm happiest. As for purpose in my life, there are people who structure every moment of their day to achieve a feeling of sense and purpose. Unfortunately, I'm not one of those people. I am pretty terrible at creating small habits. You can ask my mom, she'll confirm. But I find purpose in engaging with others. I love interacting with students—teaching, mentoring, and coaching gives me so much joy (even when they are totally not listening), I absolutely love my role in the community here and love watching young adults take ownership and authority of their own lives and interests! Especially when it's intersectional with soccer or marine biology.

—Kelsey McClellan

Marine biologist



McClellan



Calage

"Creating a compelling future is the key. My mission in life is to make sure I am mentally and physically in love with the things I do. As a mom with two kids, I focus on making sure my children are well taken care of, nurtured/protected for their future, and spending more quality time with them. Working as a sales associate at a car dealership, I admire building relationships with clients and providing the best customer service. And I focus on healthy habits such as drinking more water, eating more vegetables and fruits, and doing other activities like running, yoga, and meditation."

—Kimberly Calage

Car sales consultant

"Being a single parent to a preschooler and a teenager while my husband is away and having a full-time job in the time of a pandemic is tough. I can't begin to describe the everyday struggles of keeping things together and trying to fit all the things one needs to do in one day while trying to protect us from COVID-19 at the same time. All week seems like a long marathon toward the weekend where we could all finally sleep in and not rush to school and work. I'm in no way an expert but having a solid emotional support system is key to keeping one's mental and emotional health in check. When my husband left and got stuck off-island because of the pandemic, I knew it wasn't going to be easy, but my mantra was to take it one day at a time. I realize that to keep caring for your loved ones, you can't forget to take care of yourself too. I realize that it's okay if you're not able to finish everything on your to-do list for that day, that I am not a bad mother if I leave the dishes unwashed from time to time, that it's alright not to fold that mountain of clothes immediately, that chores will not go away and it's okay to sit down and take a deep breath or a lot of deep breaths for that matter. It's also important to take that much-needed walk to the park or frolic in the beach the whole day on weekends and not do anything but enjoy the sun in your face, the saltwater in your skin, and the laughter of your kids as they play on the pristine white sand. Personally, Netflix helps a lot for me too. Watching movies forces me to sit still for a couple of hours, which is a much-needed respite after a long day. Also, instead of focusing on my struggles, I pray, I count my blessings and I give thanks. I feel blessed that my



Lilles

teenage son is now able to help out in a lot of ways, especially with his younger sibling. My children keep me going but, in times like these, one has to see what will help and what will work to keep yourself healthy physically, spiritually, mentally, and emotionally.

—Nhorleen Lilles

Graphic Artist



Agulto

"In my free time, I enjoy going to my Zumba class and dancing away all my stress and worries from that day. Especially now with the pandemic, it is harder to make plans with friends, but my dance group is always there and we all have a fun time swaying through the night at the Minachom Atdao. Once in a while, I also like to drink a glass or two of wine after dinner to relax."

—Lolita Agulto

Kannat Tabla, Saipan

## HEALTH & WELL-BEING

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Hafa Adai!

**Saipan Tribune**  
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER





## Movement and flow of energy: Wellness at Aqua Resort Club



### Get your balance right YOGA WITH KERRI



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\$19\* - Local Resident Rate

Life seemed to have flashed through our eyes really quickly in recent years, with so many things to do and think about, coupled with the stressors of daily life. In this busy jungle, we often forget about ourselves. The next thing we know, we're already burned out.

Perhaps the turn of the year signals us to look inside, and love ourselves a little more so we can also better take care of everything else. This new year, give everyone you love—most importantly, including yourself—the gift of wellness.

"When I think of wellness I think of it terms of living a high-quality of life," Kerri Bauer said. "Wellness affects our physical, emotional and spiritual health and directly affects our actions and emotions to everyday life. Wellness is more all-encompassing and a lifestyle and not a diet or lifestyle change just for a few months. There is no end goal as we are all constantly striving to adopt overall wellness."

Bauer facilitates the Rise & Flow beach yoga at the Aqua Resort Club, teaching vinyasa on Mondays and Fridays at 8:30am. She explains vinyasa as a style of yoga that is all about movement and the flow of energy as one syncs the body and the mind together through motion and breath.

"Aqua is committed to helping the community find wellness," she said. "Most other hotels offer their spa as their wellness but Aqua is offering yoga and also has a full healthy menu in their snack shop. Aqua offers the yoga class beachside with shade. You can't get any closer to the ocean without being in it and it makes you really relax and appreciate the breathtaking scenery we have at our fingertips."

For those who are curious and want to try yoga for the first time, everyone is encouraged to "come as you are," with Bauer even thoughtfully adding that everyone had a first class.

"Yoga's a combination of breathing, meditation and movement and creates an overall sense of well-being. In fact, studies show yoga has a greater impact on enhancing mood and reducing

anxiety than other forms of exercise," she said.

The class is mostly for adults at \$7 for drop ins or \$50 for 10 classes with a class pass—but people sometimes bring their children to play in the sand while a class is happening. Bauer is also a certified Kids Yoga instructor and has taught kids yoga classes in the past at some local schools and gyms, which she hopes to do again.

"I have been teaching group fitness for 15 years. I love all kinds of movement, from running and cycling to Zumba and strength training. I started getting more into yoga over the past few years as I saw what an amazing all-around mental and physical workout it is. It challenges your mind and your body, encourages you to connect with your thoughts and increase flexibility," she said.

As a wellness buff, Bauer is encouraging everyone to find some time every single day to get outside and do some sort of movement—be it walking in the park (Saipan has a lot! American Memorial Park, Sugar King Park, Inos Peace Park, Killili Beach Park, among others), playing ball in the yard with your kids, or joining her for some yoga.

"Drink at least half your body weight in ounces in water every single day and aim for 10,000 steps," she added.

"Being outside and moving our bodies is so good for our mental and emotional health. If you are intimidated to try yoga, I encourage you to come join us for class and see what we're all about. At the very least, come enjoy some peaceful music, quiet meditation, beachside with a group of like-minded individuals who are also striving for their own personal health and wellness journey."

This year, get your balance right with yoga with Kerri. Rise & Flow Beach Yoga is held every Monday and Friday, at 8:30am, \$7 per class or \$50 for 10 classes.

To start your yoga journey, contact Bauer at (670) 484-3848. For more information on Aqua Resort Club's wellness programs, call (670) 322-1234. *(Iva Maurin)*



# Fostering wellness with Grace Christian Academy

By IVA MAURIN  
ivamaurin@gmail.com  
CORRESPONDENT

When people talk about wellness, physical health usually immediately comes to mind: How many miles can one run, how balanced one's meals are, how rarely one gets checked up at the hospital. But of course there's so much more to wellness than just that.

Wellness is all about creating balance in the many dimensions of how we live. More than just the physical, it also means nurturing the emotional, spiritual, intellectual, environmental, financial, occupational, and social aspects of our lives.

For a child, perhaps one of the best things we can do is help harness their intellectual wellness. This means, among others, recognizing and stimulating their creativity and problem-solving abilities.

"Wellness is holistic in nature and involves the development of various dimensions including physical, emotional, social/interpersonal, intellectual, and spiritual wellness. Realizing the importance of all aspects of wellness helps achieve a more balanced life," said Grace Christian Academy



principal Beth A. Nunez.

Elevating holistic wellness inclusive of intellectual wellness is part of Grace Christian Academy's mission. Nunez explained that keeping their minds, bodies, and spirit well aims to produce "vibrant, confident, and loving students" where the interaction of all parts toward the development of a well-balanced life cannot be more emphasized.

"This holistic approach is crucial as each dimension interacts with the other and not apart from each other. What affects our hearts (emotions) affects our minds (intellect), bodies (physical), interactions and behaviors, and spirit," she said.

## Minds need continuous inspiration

Keep the brain active. Improving intellectual wellness involves broadening perspectives through edu-

cation, conversations with others, developing personal interests, and exercising the mind.

"Intellectual wellness... encourages creative, stimu-

*'Grace Christian Academy exists to partner with the home to produce vibrant, confident, and loving students who excel in their academic pursuits in commitment to Jesus Christ.'*

lating mental activities, and the filling of our minds with healthy influences/information. Our minds need to be continually inspired and exercised just as our bodies do. People with high levels of intellectual wellness have an active mind and continue to learn by expanding their knowledge base and learning new skills," Nunez said.

She emphasized, though, that it is crucial to be selective and intentional about what we fill our minds with.



This means being selective about what we read, watch, and listen to—for these impact our minds.

"Aligned with intellectual wellness, again as a com-

pleting puzzles, respectfully debating issues with others who have opposing viewpoints, learning a new language or musical instrument, trying a new hobby or sport, discussing and analyzing current events, or teaching and tutoring others are just some ways to maintain or improve intellectual wellness," Nunez added.

These strategies, and more, are conducted not just in the classrooms but in extracurricular activities at Grace Christian Academy.

## Filling our minds with positive truths

Maintaining wellness is crucial, most especially in times of crises, such as the pandemic we all are facing today.

"Because crises affect the person, family, and community as a whole, overall wellness is crucial to be able to not only survive the crisis but thrive through it. In

this pandemic, for example, the situation can produce feelings and thoughts of hopelessness and despair. Filling our minds with positive truths of hope, resiliency, strength, endurance, etc. remains essential as a daily exercise through such crises," she said.

Nunez added that intellectual wellness development will contribute to and function interactively with how we address other aspects of wellness.

And for the community, Nunez has this to share: "[Take] care of your mind, heart, body, and spirit in order to keep positive, hopeful, healthy, and well at every stage of life, in every journey, and through each crisis. In so doing, it is vital to remember that we do not need to rely on our own strength and wisdom. The Bible states in Isaiah 41:10, 'So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.' May we all remember that God is the source of all we need."

Grace Christian Academy is located on Navy Hill, Saipan. For more information, call [670] 322-3320 or visit <https://gca-nmi.com>.





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**Grace Christian Academy is located on Upper Navy Hill. For more information, please call 322-3320/3850 or set up an appointment to visit the school**





**Ernest Aquino**

Wellness Team Lead-TakeCare Wellness Center

Ernest is the Wellness Team Lead at TakeCare, specializing in the wellness, fitness and health education. He is also a certified lifestyle coach and facilitates the group prevention programs which includes the Prevent T2 Diabetes Prevention Program and the Balanced Lifestyle Kickstart Program.



Balanced Lifestyle  
TakeCare



**Jonei Delgado, RDN**

FHP Health Center & TakeCare Wellness Center

Jonei is a Registered Dietitian at TakeCare, specializing in the dietary needs and quality nutritional care of patients with chronic kidney disease. She is a proud member of Eat Right Pro/Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, Renal Dietitian Practice Group and Oncology Nutrition Dietetic Practice Group.

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\*All health education classes are FREE to TakeCare members unless otherwise specified.



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## THE CNMI OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

### WHO WE ARE:

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) is a federally funded government agency that assists individuals with disabilities to obtain skills and resources needed to get a job, keep a job, and develop a career. Under the Office of Honorable Governor, OVR assists a broad range of disabilities, which includes mental, physical, or psychological disabilities.

### WHAT WE DO:

Our services include vocational counseling and guidance, job search and/or placement, vocational trainings, assistive rehabilitation technology services or devices, occupational equipment, and any services or goods deemed necessary to achieve an employment outcome.

### OUR CORE PROGRAMS

#### Basic Support/Supported Employment (BS/SE)

The Basic Support/Supported Employment (BS/SE) is a service to qualifying individuals with disabilities which is tailored based on their unique circumstance. Comparable services and benefits are a federal mandate and must be fully explored and applied to the maximum extent possible.

This program branch also includes the Work Experience Training (WET) Program as well as the On-the Job Training (OJT) Program for individuals that need to gain the necessary experience and skills needed in order to succeed in a competitive, integrated work environment based on the individual's vocational goal.

#### Pre-Employment Transition Services (PRE-ETS)

The Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) Program is provided to students with disabilities who are between the ages of 16-21 years and are receiving Special Education services or a 504 plan in order to help students prepare to become career and/or college ready after high school.

#### Independent Living for the Older Blind (ILOB)

The Independent Living for the Older Blind (ILOB) Program Services is provided to individuals with a visual impairment (corrected vision in the better eye is 20/70 or worse), age 55 years and older to assist them in maintain their independence at home and in their communities.

**TOGETHER WE CAN  
BUILD A FUTURE.**

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

☎ (670) 322-6537/38

📧 Cnmi Ovr

✉ nmidir@ovrgov.net

🌐 ovrgov.net

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By IVA MAURIN  
ivamaurin@gmail.com  
CORRESPONDENT

Feeling stressed, depressed, lonely, or just needing someone to talk to? Whatever you are going through, you are not alone. Here are some programs in the community that can help and guide us all:

### CHCC Community Guidance Center

The main provider of mental health services for all in the CNMI, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Community Guidance Center offers outreach, prevention and education services, sup-

port services to families, and referral assistance to other resources in the community. Mental health treatment services offered are: 1] The Transitional Living Center, which provides Day Treatment Program; case management; outreach, family, and educational services; illness management and recovery training; medication management; and anger management; 2] The Victims of Crime Advocacy Program, which provides support and counseling services to all victims of crime in the CNMI, including secondary trauma, domestic violence, depression, panic

# Health, well-being programs at work & in the community

disorders, suicide ideation, sexual abuse, and drug abuse; and 3] Psychiatric outpatient services. For assistance or additional information, contact (670) 234-8950 Ext. 3311.

### Hali' Inaguaiya – Systems of Care

Systems of Care is a network of community-based programs to serve and

support children and youth with serious mental health needs, and their families. Services and support provided are built on the strengths of the individuals, to address each person's cultural and linguistic needs, in order for them—and their families—to function better wherever they are, and throughout their lives. Programs and ser-

vices that System of Care offer include the Natural Helpers Program; mental health first aid certification; family and youth mental health workshops; behavioral counseling and therapy; wraparound process; and Healthy Family, Healthy Communities. For assistance or more information, contact (670) 664-4604. Office hours are from 7:30am to 4:30pm, Monday to Friday.

the Office of Student & Support Services, webinars are held under Project TASA (and HALIGI AWARE), which included Table Talks: Overcoming Anxiety about School, among others.

### Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc.

NMPASI is a local non-profit that administers grant programs from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services/Center for Mental Health/Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, among others. They run programs such as the Protection & Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness, and the Protection & Advocacy for Individual Rights, providing legally-based advocacy services for and on behalf of anyone who has been discriminated against because of a mental illness. For assistance, or for more information, call (670) 235-7273/4 or visit [www.nmpasi.org](http://www.nmpasi.org).

### Commonwealth Ports Authority

Employees of the Commonwealth Ports Authority are able to take a day off per quarter under CPA's self-care leave policy, approved by its board last September 2021. The self-care leave is intended to promote employee well-being, where there is more employee satisfaction and engagement, by managing work-related stress. The leave is also separate from, and is in addition to other CPA employee benefits such as annual or sick leaves.

### Marianas Visitors Authority

The Marianas Visitors Authority also has a self-care leave policy in place, approved by its board in October 2021, to provide for its employees a chance to take at least a day off to recharge. MVA staff work day in and out, especially during large community events, according to MVA managing director Priscilla Iakopo in an earlier interview, and the self-care leave policy allows them to be able to rest mentally and physically, and come back refreshed.

### National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

1 (800) 273-8255, which provides counseling and support 24 hours a day.

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### CNMI PSS: Project HALIGI AWARE

The CNMI Public School System prioritizes students and faculty's mental wellness through Project Healthy, Affirming, Locally-Inclusive Grant Initiative for Advancing Awareness and Resilience in Education, or HALIGI AWARE. HALIGI AWARE also extends mental health awareness at the community level, and follows this three-tier system: 1) Universal approach, where a safe environment is created to promote healthy and successful students; 2) Targeted approach, where at-risk students and staff are placed in small groups of specialized mental health program led by a mental health professional; and 3) Intensive support, provided specifically to the individual's need and referred to community health partners for additional support. For assistance and more information, contact (670) 664-3822. Office hours are from 7:30am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday.

### CNMI PSS: Project TASA

The CNMI Public School System's Project Trauma Advised Student Advocacy, or TASA, also follows a multi-tiered approach to school-based behavioral health and crisis response, as it supports and increases student resilience, to mitigate the impact of disaster-based trauma and crisis, such as the trauma caused by Typhoon Mangkut, Super Typhoon Yutu, and now, COVID-19. Project TASA seeks to improve PSS staff preparedness to recognize and respond to trauma and crisis, increase access to school-based and related mental health services, and connect family, schools, and community to address student mental health and well-being concerns. Through

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# NMPASI

NORTHERN MARIANAS PROTECTION & ADVOCACY SYSTEMS, INC.



## Financial Wellness with SSI

First of all, what is SSI? SSI is a federal income supplement program funded by general tax revenues. It is designed to help aged, blind, and disabled people who have little or no income, and it provides cash to meet basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter. In the CNMI, an individual with a disability and no income may receive up to \$790. Now with that in mind, some people might ask how is that even possible? I believe if you can work with what you have and the resources, you will be able to achieve financial wellness. According to <https://www.standardbank.co.za/southafrica/personal/learn/how-to-improve-your-financial-wellbeing> here are 5 tips to improve your financial well-being.

### 1. Take stock of your finances

Know where you stand financially and determine what adjustments need to be made. Assess how much you earn and spend, how much money goes towards paying debt, where you are falling short and what you can cut down on to free up cash flow.

### 2. Create a budget and stick to it

Approach budgeting as a tool to prioritize spending and help you determine where your money is going instead of wondering to where it disappeared. Creating a budget helps you develop smart money habits that put you in control of your money and empower your financial goals.

### 3. Decrease your debt

If most of your budget goes towards debt, meeting your financial goals can be difficult. As it also affects your credit score. Consider a debt management solution to help deal with it. What you're spending on interest could be better used towards savings or covering other expenses.

### 4. Plan ahead

Create an emergency fund by setting money aside that you can access if an unplanned expense or financial situation occurs.

### 5. Protect what's important

Get the right coverage for you, your family and your assets so that if something unexpected happens, you don't have to bear the financial impact. An insurance payout could reduce your expenses in the long run and help you maintain your and your family's financial security.

Following these tips may help you achieve your financial wellness. Here at NMPASI we are the state designated P&A for people with a disability. Within one of our programs, we assist by providing Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (also known as the PABSS program).

If you would like more information about financial wellness and the PABSS program, please contact us at 670-235-7273/4 or you can visit our website at [www.nmpasi.org](http://www.nmpasi.org).

## Shifting Perspectives on Disabilities and Physical Health

By Shaniah Alvarez

What do you think about when you hear "disability and health/wellness?" or "disability and health/working out?" Does it make you worried or uncomfortable? If it does, challenge yourself to shift your mindset and perspective. According to an article by Dr. Sarah Wallace, persons with disabilities can be at a higher risk of poor general health and wellbeing and may face greater barriers to accessing health services than people without disabilities – read more on [www.futurelearn.com](http://www.futurelearn.com). People with disabilities (PWD) already face great barriers when it comes to their overall health. It is important to remove the negative stigma around people with disabilities and working out to better their physical health, and it is important to think of accommodations that could benefit them when working on their physical health. An interesting account that focuses on people with disabilities and physical health is an Instagram page @disabledgirlswholift – this page empowers people within the disability community to focus on their mental health, well-being, and physical health. This page also promotes their podcast where they address important topics like ableism, depression, doing important research, and more, then ties these topics into physical health and well-being.

People with disabilities are just as capable of managing their physical health. Did you know that there are Olympics for people with disabilities? It is called the Paralympic Games. This is another great way of researching and being more open-minded when thinking about people with disabilities and physical health. There are many success stories in the Paralympics and this just goes to show how capable the disability community is. For example, here in the CNMI, we had the Disability Sports Fest in 2018. This event allowed people with disabilities to showcase their skills and capabilities in multiple sports and physical health.

So in lieu of feeling uncomfortable, worried, or scared that they will get hurt when a person with a disability enters the gym or some other facility or event where you are, challenge yourself to be more encouraging and empowering towards that person. Greet them, tell them what a great job they are doing, and how enlightening it is to see them push themselves in accomplishing and overcoming society's negative stigmas and barriers. For more information on disability-related topics and important conversations, follow @disabledgirlswholift and click their link tree to connect to their podcasts, YouTube, and more!

If you or anyone you know needs our services at NMPASI, please call our office at 235-7273!

## Occupational Wellness for Individuals with Disabilities in a Workplace

By: Tiava To'omata, Program Aide

It is not uncommon to often forget that we all need to discover ways to find joy and relaxation in our everyday lives. One place that we find ourselves lacking this needed and deserved peace is more than likely at our jobs. At the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc. (NMPASI), one of our services include advocating on behalf of our clients, who are individuals with disabilities, to receive reasonable accommodations in their workplaces. This also can lead to ensuring that their workplace is in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) that serves to protect individuals with disabilities from discrimination.

Occupational Wellness is key to a safe and enjoyable space. How to accomplish these goals, especially for one who has a disability, is to brainstorm and try different components that are associated with healthy and effective occupational wellness. This can include having team meetings to voice out concerns that aim to find ways to efficiently support each other. It has been proven a number of times that building trust and comradery within any organization is beneficial to the overall environment and productivity. Allowing employees to utilize the popular The Mandt System's slogan: "With these people and in this place, I feel safe" will allow all employees, with and without disabilities, to advocate for themselves and for each other. Having this sense of security with one another can add to a beneficial relationship with occupational wellness.

A final tip that everyone who feels overwhelmed with work should practice is self-care. Exploring the various self-care methods that one can practice in their workplace can improve their occupational wellness. The simple tips that can be incorporated in your everyday work life are: stepping away to get some air and sunlight, or just to walk around the building to take a break, saying mini-meditations and reading daily affirmations to ground yourself, or even decorating your workspace and adding a touch of personality to it. One of these tips might suit you and if not, be creative! Be expressive with your workplace needs and find a middle ground with your employer. We often forget too that our bosses, managers and supervisors all go through the same workplace stress we do. Finding rational compromises is not an easy road, but it is a path worth taking to accomplish a successful occupational wellness with our workplace. For more information about protections for people with disabilities in the workplace, please contact NMPASI at 235-7273/4 or visit us online at [www.nmpasi.org](http://www.nmpasi.org).

## To Be Honest (TBH): Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI)

I love the term "New Year, New Me." I like the idea of fresh starts and New Year's Resolutions for overall health. As we close out the first month of 2022, whether you're hitting your goals or struggling to stay consistent, let's not forget to keep ourselves safe while we stay active because TBH, we don't think about TBIs enough. A TBI, or Traumatic Brain Injury, is an injury to the brain from an external force like a bump to the head such as a concussion. TBIs can disrupt the way the brain works, affecting memory, balance and coordination, or even speech. A TBI can have long-term effects or be a permanent disability.

Here in the CNMI, we are lucky enough to live in a tropical climate where the weather is warm and the waters are clear. This means we are able to do all these great outdoor activities almost all year long. Whether you rev it up with the motorcross or Harley enthusiasts or go ATV-ing through the mud, don't forget to protect your head by wearing a helmet. I know, I know... a helmet isn't the most appealing thing. They're bulky and sometimes awkward. TBH, my head sweats when I wear one. Nonetheless, we gotta do what we gotta do.

Even if you're not living the extreme sport life – if you do a slow stroll on your bicycle along Beach Road, go fishing, swimming or even spend a day on the farm – always be aware of your surroundings. Our brain controls our body and our mind holds our most precious memories. Let's do what we can to protect them. As we move forward this year, stay healthy and happy and remember to protect your head. As my old teacher used to say, "use your noggin, not your dagan" (use your head, not your butt).

If you or someone you know needs assistance with a Traumatic Brain Injury, please contact the Protection & Advocacy for Traumatic Brain Injury (PATBI) program at the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI) at 670-235-7273/4 or visit us on the web at [www.nmpasi.org](http://www.nmpasi.org), [www.facebook.com/NMPASI](https://www.facebook.com/NMPASI), and follow us on Instagram @nmpasi670.

Sharleen Sablan  
NMPASI Project Specialist

## "Socializing for People with Disabilities" By: John Cabrera

People with physical or mental disabilities are more often socially isolated, with less chances to be productive in the community. Loneliness, social support, social isolation between employed adults with or without a disability, in some cases, may lead to depression. So, the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) plays an important role when it comes to socializing for people with disabilities. Just getting out of the house is a challenge. So, when I attend public events, I depend extremely on the ADA Act, to guide/and or allow me to socialize with able bodies independently. With the ADA Act, I am confident to go out into the community events or places knowing accessibility won't be an issue.

But that is not always the case. Once in a while I will attend social events or go places that are inaccessible. When I come across these places with barriers it sometimes affects me mentally! I'll often feel bad when I go to an event, or establishment thinking the ADA is enforced. For most of the time, the issues are architectural design of the establishment. Most of the establishments on island do not meet the ADA requirements or guidelines when it comes to accessibility. I challenge DPW/and Zoning to enforce the ADA architectural design/Law.

For more information contact NMPASI at (670) 235-7273/4 or visit us on the web at [www.nmpasi.org](http://www.nmpasi.org), [www.facebook.com/NMPASI](https://www.facebook.com/NMPASI), and follow us on Instagram @nmpasi670.

For anything further, please feel free to contact the NMPASI Office at (670) 235-7273/4 [tel.] / 235-7275 [fax] / 287-0652 [text message] or contact us on-line at [www.nmpasi.org](http://www.nmpasi.org).

*\*NMPASI, a local non-profit organization, administers grant funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)/Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS)/Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD), and the Human Resources Services Administration (HRS), the U.S. Department of Education (DOE)/Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), and the Social Security Administration (SSA).*



Wellness is not only about one's physical well-being. Your wellness includes your physical, emotional, social, environmental, occupational, financial, spiritual, and intellectual health. All dimensions of wellness need our attentiveness as that is how we will flourish in the new year. Learning the definitions of each wellness and its importance will hopefully start you on your journey to better your health. Making your wellness plan is only the first step; we must commit and grow to become the healthier "you."

01



**Physical Wellness** encompasses your overall body health. It refers to your exercise, nutrition, sleep, and your ability to seek help when you show any signs of illness and getting the help. Physical wellness is important because our bodies need to be healthy in order to meet the daily demands of life. To improve your physical wellness, get your 7-9 hours of sleep, exercise for at least 30 minutes a day, have a healthy balanced diet, and schedule your annual medical checkups.

02



**Emotional Wellness** involves acknowledging, expressing, and coping with your feelings. To improve this aspect of your wellness, you can take part in self-care and stress reducing activities such as yoga or going for a walk on the beach, etc. Building on your emotional wellness can help you handle stressful situations and boost your confidence in your decision-making skills. Emotional wellness plays a big role in how you handle life's obstacles. It is about resilience. Grit. Once you are emotionally healthy, you are able to bounce right back from setbacks.

03



**Social Wellness** deals with your ability to grow your relationships with others in a positive way. A person who is socially well is able to respect and give mutual trust. This element of wellness is vital to humans as it plays a key part of our mental health. Essentially, in order for us to survive, we need social contact. Having good communication skills and creating a supportive network are crucial for interpersonal wellness. Research shows that having good relationships lead to better health as they can reduce stress. Joining organizations or clubs that are related to your interests could be one of many ways to enhance your social wellness.

04



**Environmental Wellness** is defined as having a connection with your surroundings and understanding the need to take care of it. To put it simply, your personal health depends on the health of our planet. We need to actively preserve and protect it by keeping our environment clean and safe. We could reduce our pollution, waste, and recycle whenever we can. Having a clean environment contributes to your overall physical and mental health.

05



**Occupational Wellness** refers to your level of enjoyment and fulfillment in doing your work. Your attitude toward your job has a big influence to your performance. If you love what you do, you will continue to do better. This dimension of wellness is important because work will most likely take up most of your time during the week, so the way you feel about your job plays a role to your overall wellbeing. Cultivate your occupational wellness by doing what you enjoy, set a realistic goal to accomplish, and create connections with your co-workers.

06



**Financial Wellness** implies that you are able to meet current and future financial expenses. This refers to living within your means, avoiding unnecessary debt, but also making choices that let you enjoy life. Generating a budget, investing, and saving for your retirement are things you can do in order to start becoming more financially responsible. Balancing this with other dimensions of wellness is important because it will all come back to how you are doing money-wise. Seek guidance from a financial adviser or take a look at your expenses and remove nonessential items.

07



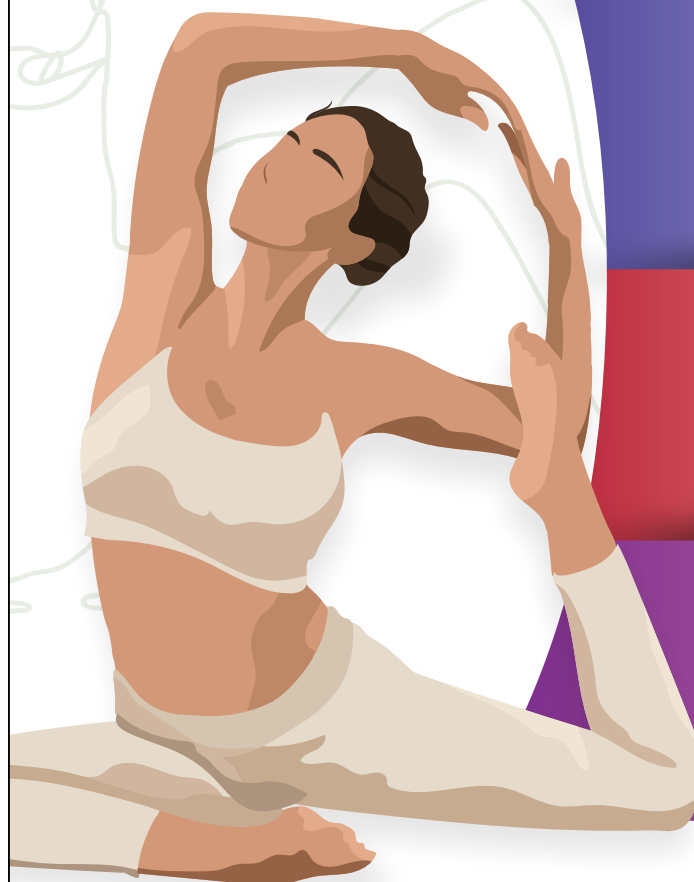
**Spiritual Wellness** gives our lives a sense of purpose and meaning. More than just one's religious beliefs, it also includes your values, ethics, and morals. A spiritually well person is able to take their life experiences, whether good or bad, and reflect on their meaning. Have a positive outlook, be more forgiving toward others, and have a better feeling of self-worth. It offers peace of mind and harmony with all other dimensions of wellness. We can boost our spiritual wellbeing by volunteering for a cause, spending time outside, and even just speaking to someone about how you have been feeling in your life.

08



**Intellectual Wellness** refers to challenging our minds and to continue growing in knowledge. Healthy habits you could include in your everyday life are being open to new ideas, reading a piece of writing, or playing puzzles. Just as you do with exercising and keeping your body strong, improving your intellectual health helps with a strong mind. Working on yourself intellectually is a vital tool you can use to improve your current skills and knowledge, develop new abilities, become more creative, and work on your critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Toward  
a  
healthier  
'you'



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# PSS elementary school teachers learn ‘first aid for feelings’

Approximately 50 participants took part in a First Aid for Feelings Virtual Workshop that the Public School System Mental Health hosted last Friday, Jan. 14, 2022, via Blackboard, a web-based virtual learning environment used by students, teachers, and staff to implement curriculum through an online interface.

First Aid for Feelings was sourced from a Scholastic Workbook designed to assist students in learning mental health coping strategies that can help alleviate emotional stress, improve concentration, and enhance brain development.

Participants had the opportunity to engage in the activities through the facilitator and the student lens. This training was offered to PSS Elementary School teachers in the district to model the activities and strategies they can implement in their classroom and office settings to help our students cope with COVID-related anxieties.

The training was facilitated by Vannah Hocog, behavioral health specialist from Rota; and Mary Hocog, behavioral health specialist from Tinian.

“Modeling the activities in the workbook was such a fun way to interact with our teach-

## Power outages on Feb. 2, 4

There will be scheduled power service interruptions on Feb. 2 and 4.

### WEDNESDAY, FEB. 2

■ Outage Time: 9am to 1pm

■ Area(s) Affected- As Matuis.

Momentary Outage Time: 9am to 9:30am and 12:30pm to 1pm

■ Area(s) Affected:

Achugao, San Roque and As Matuis.

■ Purpose: To replace two rotted primary wooden power poles to concrete poles and to replace deteriorated hardware on CUC power poles along Chalan As Matuis.

■ Circuit: Feeder 7

■ Water well(s) affected: 10 wells, one booster station

■ Area(s) affected: As Matuis, San Roque, Achugao and Tanapag

■ Wastewater facility affected: SR-1, SR-2 and SR-3.

### FRIDAY, FEB. 4

■ • Outage Time: 9am to 1pm

Area(s) affected: Capitol Hill (partials of Chalan Savana).

■ Purpose: To replace a rotted double dead-end power pole along Chalan Savana in Capitol Hill.

■ Circuit: Feeder 4

■ Water well(s) affected: None.

■ Wastewater facility affected: None.

For more information, contact the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Customer Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates. (PR)



ers and counselors and provide them with strategies to help our elementary students cope with COVID-19 related anxiety,” said Mary Hocog. “COVID-19 has impacted all

of us in some way or another, so we’re glad that we were able to share helpful tools with our teachers and counselors to guide our students in navigating through this new normal.”

Vannah Hocog added, “As we go through this ‘new normal,’ I was delighted to share this beneficial resource with our elementary teachers and counselors. I hope that the activities and strate-

gies provided in this demonstration will empower our educators to have these open conversations with their students and practice these coping strategies when facing difficult times.”

Overall, the virtual workshop allowed PSS elementary teachers to open an additional resource to help better support its students in this trying time of COVID-19 and the anxieties that come with it. With this training, they are better equipped with the tools to alleviate the stresses they may face in this new way of living in the ongoing pandemic. (PR)



## NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program

# JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NMHC JVA NO.	Positions:	Salary:	Opening Date	Closing Date
2022-008	CDBG-DR Administrative Specialist (1-Position)	UNGRADED \$25,000.00 to \$30,000.00 per annum	Jan. 27, 2022	Feb. 11, 2022 4:00 PM

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information can be accessed at [www.nmhcgov.net](http://www.nmhcgov.net) and [www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com](http://www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com).

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; the CDBG-DR Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Ladera Building, Chalan Laulau, Beach Road; or email application and documents to [officemanager@nmhcgov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhcgov.net).

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to [officemanager@nmhcgov.net](mailto:officemanager@nmhcgov.net). NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/  
**JESSE S. PALACIOS**  
Corporate Director



## COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

PORT OF SAIPAN SOUTH SEAPLANE RAMP PAVING & DRAINAGE

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.  
PO BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950  
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962  
WEBSITE: [WWW.CNMIPTS.COM](http://WWW.CNMIPTS.COM)

# REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

## PROJECT NO. CPA-SS-001-19

The Commonwealth Ports Authority's (CPA) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations, CPA hereby seeks the services of qualified consulting firms to provide Construction Management Services for the Port of Saipan South Seaplane Ramp Paving & Drainage, Project No. CPA-SS-001-19.

The project is being funded by CPA and is in compliance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations, Section 40-50-202, Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Administration Office, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. No fee is required for obtaining the RFQ package. Electronic copies may be made available upon written request to Ms. Wendi Prater at [wprater@cnmiports.com](mailto:wprater@cnmiports.com) or Ms. Sheri N. Llagas at [cpa.receptionist@pticom.com](mailto:cpa.receptionist@pticom.com).

Questions regarding this request for qualification statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager, via email to [wprater@cnmiports.com](mailto:wprater@cnmiports.com) or hand delivered to the CPA Administration Office by no later than 5:00 p.m. CHST, local time, Friday, February 4, 2022.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

Interested consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00p.m. CHST, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2022**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

**CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO**  
Executive Director

Date: January 12, 2022



## COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.  
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PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962  
E-MAIL ADDRESS: [CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM](mailto:CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM) WEBSITE: [WWW.CNMIPTS.COM](http://WWW.CNMIPTS.COM)

# Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport

## “Car Rental Concessions”

### CPA-RFP-008-21

## Request for Proposals

### for: CPA Concession No. CRR-2021-01

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (“CPA” or “Authority”) is soliciting proposals for the award of one (1) concession granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport (“Car Rental Concession”). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport for a period of about two years (contract ends on 5/31/2024) upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-008-21 is **January 13, 2022**, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:00 p.m. on February 23, 2022**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of \$100.00 (certified cashier's checks made out to Commonwealth Ports Authority) to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

**CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO**  
Executive Director



## COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.  
PO BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950  
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962  
E-MAIL ADDRESS: [CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM](mailto:CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM) WEBSITE: [WWW.CNMIPTS.COM](http://WWW.CNMIPTS.COM)

# Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport

## “Car Rental Concession”

### CPA-RFP-007-21

## Request for Proposals

### for: CPA Concession No. CRS-2021-01

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (“CPA” or “Authority”) is soliciting proposals for the award of one (1) concession granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport (“Car Rental Concession”). The successful proposer will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport for a period of approximately two years (contract to end on 5/31/2024) upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-007-21 is **January 13, 2022**, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) **by or before 4:00 p.m. on February 23, 2022**, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of \$100.00 (certified cashier's checks made out to Commonwealth Ports Authority) to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

**CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO**  
Executive Director

MICHAEL N. EVANGELISTA, ESQ.  
(CNMI Bar No. F0364)  
LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL NORITA  
EVANGELISTA, LLC  
D' Torres Building, Garapan  
P.O. Box 504340, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 235-8060; Fax: (670) 235-8070  
Email: [mnevangelista8@gmail.com](mailto:mnevangelista8@gmail.com)

Attorney for Plaintiff

## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF SAIPAN,

Plaintiff,  
-v-

PATRICIA MUÑA ALDAN  
and JUAN DELEON  
GUERRERO ALDAN,

Defendants.

Civil Action  
No. 20-0015

NOTICE OF  
AUCTION  
ON THE  
MORTGAGED  
PROPERTY

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**, that under and by virtue of the judgment dated September 27, 2021, made and entered in the above entitled action by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff from Defendants, the court-approved auctioneer, Mr. Richard S. Villagomez, will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the 16th day of February, 2022, at 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael N. Evangelista, LLC., 2nd Floor, D' Torres Building, Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit: **Lot 010 K 401**.

Lot 010 K 401, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 010 K 01, the original of which was recorded on August 19, 1987, as Document No. 87-2912 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

### Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

- withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
- to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
- to reject any and all bids.

2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property, provided it is acceptable as the minimum starting bid to the Bank of Saipan. Bids made in advance must be in writing and addressed to Michael N. Evangelista, Attorney-at-Law, 2nd Floor, D' Torres Building, Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan, P.O. Box 504340 CK Saipan, MP 96950 or Email: [mnevangelista8@gmail.com](mailto:mnevangelista8@gmail.com).

3. Deposit and Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within five days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within five days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in the property will revert to Bank of Saipan.

4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and Bank of Saipan reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Offices of Michael N. Evangelista, LLC., for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold “AS IS” and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 7<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022.

LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL NORITA  
EVANGELISTA, LLC.

/s/ Michael N. Evangelista  
Michael N. Evangelista, Esq.  
(Bar No. 0364)  
Attorney for Plaintiff



# MINA launches School for Environmental Conservation program



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants of the 2021-2022 Schools for Environmental Conservation Workshop.

The Mariana Islands Nature Alliance launched its Schools for Environmental Conservation, or SFEC, for school year 2021-2022 this past Saturday, Jan. 22, at the Sunflower Hall of the Saipan World Resort, where they introduced the students to this year's theme of "Learning About, Interacting With, and Actively Addressing Climate Change in the CNMI."

Students will work throughout the remainder of the school year to develop and implement Conservation Action Plans that they apply specifically to their school campuses.

This year's cohort are students and teachers from Dandan Middle School, Hopwood Middle School, Mount Carmel School, Saipan Community School, Saipan International School, Saipan Southern High School, and Tanapag Middle School.

"Science has proven that climate change is happening at a rapid pace and we need to take steps, however small, that will ensure the sustainability of our island way of life for generations to come," said MINA executive director Roberta Guerrero in her welcoming remarks. "Today's workshop is to introduce you to what climate change can mean for our islands and the confidence that you can make a difference."

Tasi Watch community ranger Joseph Nekaiques presented the students with a brief history of SFEC, a dynamic program that has engaged students and teachers in environmental science for more than 10 years.

SFEC provides exposure to terrestrial and marine conservation efforts, current global and local environmental issues, and hands-on field

experience and training in developing and implementing CAPs.

Ranger Selina Taitano spoke to the students about environmental stewardship, stressing our responsibility to protect and conserve our natural resources for ourselves and the future.

Presenting on "Climate Change: The Climate Crisis," program manager Jolly Ann Cruz shed light on the reality of what other countries are experiencing due to the impacts of climate change. Cruz encouraged the youth not to despair but to be motivated as the generation that provides climate solutions. She showcased an interactive map from Climate Central-Coastal Risk Screening Tool, showing areas threatened by sea-level rise and coastal flooding, raising concern from the

audience when viewing predictions for Saipan in the upcoming years that led them to think seriously about how they will be affected by climate change unless adaptive measures are taken.

Establishing cultural significance, Colleen Flores and Marlyn Naputi from the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, Division of Coastal Resources Management presented on "Climate Change in the CNMI." Emphasizing some of the effects of climate change locally, Flores and Naputi spoke about the changing air temperatures resulting in longer and warmer seasons that cause damage to land and marine ecosystems while also affecting local harvest, hunting, and agriculture seasons.

Another alarming effect presented was about sea-level rise and how levels in the

CNMI are rising at an average of 0.07 inches per year since 1978, leading to more frequent and extreme coastal erosion and flooding, threatening coastal areas, properties, and infrastructure close to shore. The impacts of ocean acidification, coral bleaching, stronger storms, and typhoons in the CNMI are real.

However, on a positive note, as mentioned by one of the participating teachers, "It is not all doom and gloom." Flores and Naputi concluded their presentation with speaking about climate adaptation strategies and actions that we can all take to protect our environment from harmful climate impacts.

The afternoon was a working session where the participants began to design their CAPs, identifying targets that may be contributing to climate change on their

school campus or at the village level, develop objectives and actions, and plans to measure their actions indicating progress towards their goals.

MINA is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) environmental conservation organization and has been serving the Marianas since 2005, fostering community and science-based conservation programs to enhance and sustain the CNMI's environments and cultures. The SFEC program is made possible through funding by the Department of Interior, Coral Reef and Natural Resources program.

To learn more about how MINA empowers communities for conservation, visit MINA's Facebook page, follow us on Instagram, email MINA at minaoutreach@gmail.com, or call MINA at 233-7333(REEF). (PR)

## Mount Carmel School kicks off Catholic Schools Week

On Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2022, Mount Carmel School held the annual Catholic Schools Week proclamation ceremony with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and members of the MCS community.

Catholic Schools Week is an annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States and U.S. Territories. Catholic School's Week is meant to help schools connect with prospective families, donors, educators, and other community members. Part of the CSW celebration is to help showcase the significance of receiving a Catholic education and highlight the joint effort of all stakeholders that contribute to the success of the school's students and alumni.

This year's CSW theme is "Catholic Schools: Faith, Excellence, Service," which encompasses the core products and values that can be found in Catholic schools across the country. As the National Catholic Educational Association noted in announcing the theme, "Not only are Catholic schools teaching students to become future servant leaders, faithful disciples and enriched citizens in our communities, we as educators are growing with them. ...These shared qualities are what make Catholic schools work and what make them succeed."

Mount Carmel School acting president Frances Taimanao is excited about the CSW theme and the weeklong celebration in

February. "Despite all the challenges our community has faced, we have always remained steadfast in our commitment to teaching our students the values of faith, excellence, and service. What is truly rewarding is seeing all the good works our AlumKnights have made after graduating from Mount Carmel," she said.

Referring to the school's alumni, who are called AlumKnights after the school's mascot, Taimanao added, "At the local, regional, and even national levels, our AlumKnights have embraced this year's theme as successful leaders who serve their communities in business, government, and non-profits."

As it joins the rest of the nation, Mount Carmel School

has prepared a full week of events that highlight a different aspect of the school each day. On Sunday, Jan.30, the focus will be on "Catholic Schools in our Parishes" as MCS students converge at their individual parishes to kick off CSW 2022 with a Eucharistic Celebration. On Monday, the focus shifts to "Celebrating Our Community" as MCS junior high and high school students engage in different activities that support community services. Elementary school students will make banners expressing their appreciation for the school's many donors and supporters. Tuesday will be dedicated to "Celebrating Our Teachers and Faculty." On that day, MCS will hold an appreciation program for

faculty and staff, in which the 2022 Teacher of the Year will be announced.

On Wednesday, MCS will celebrate "Catholic Schools in our Vocations" with a Eucharistic Celebration, which will be followed by a vocations talk and other activities honoring vocations. MCS will shift its attention on Thursday to the rest of the country with "Catholic Schools in our Nation." On this day students, grades kindergarten through 12 will participate in a special flag-raising with the presence of front-liners and first responders. Throughout the day, students will also participate in various campus activities.

Friday morning's emphasis will be on "Catholic Schools in our Students" with MCS

students participating in field activities, jeopardy, and other in-class activities.

Due to the pandemic, Mount Carmel School has suspended its annual "Night with the Knights" gala, which recognizes the school's AlumKnight community. This school year, the AlumKnight awards will be honored and celebrated during the school's end of the year award ceremony.

The celebration of Catholic Schools Week began as an annual event in 1974. Catholic Schools Week and the National Marketing Campaign are joint projects of the National Catholic Educational Association, the world's largest private professional education association, and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the national public policy organization of U.S. bishops. (PR)



# 20 Saipan International School students receive AP Honors

Twenty students at Saipan International School have received AP Honors in recognition of their exceptional achievement on AP Exams for the 2020-21 school year.

The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement based on students' performance on AP Exams:

Eight students qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction Award by earning an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. These students are: Hyunmin Cho, Frederic Guintu, Julianne Hall, Cevina Hwang, Guy Yeon Kim, Samantha Liske-Clark, Arabella Loste, Yeonkyoung No, Hyeonjae Park and Jason Sablan.

Three students qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor Award by earning an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. These students are Gaeul Kim, Seunghyun Kim and Ariya McGuire.

Seven students qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing three or more AP Exams with scores of 3 or higher. The AP Scholars are Hyeonbin Jeong, Joobin Kim, Won Woo Nam, Jinju Thompson, Maury Zon Tybacco, and Jimin Woo.

SIS is also the only AP Capstone Diploma school in the region and was able to report a 100% pass rate for its 2021 AP Seminar and AP Research classes. This resulted in eight students receiving the AP Capstone Diploma. These students are:



Loste



McGuire



Hwang



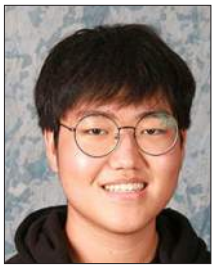
Choi



Guintu



Gaeul Kim



Park



Cho



Liske-Clark



S. Kim



Nam



No



Guy Yeon Kim



Jeong



Hall



Tybacco



Thompson



J. Kim



Sablan



Woo

Kim, Samantha Liske-Clark, Arabella Loste, Won Woo Nam, Yeonkyoung No, Jason Sablan. An additional four students received the AP Seminar and Research Certificate. These students are Eunbi Choi, Hyeonbin Jeong, Jinju Thompson,

Maury Zon Tybacco

The College Board's Advanced Placement Program provides willing and academically prepared students with the opportunity to take rigorous college-level courses while still in high school, and to earn

college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on the AP Exams. About 22 percent of the 2.2 million students worldwide who took AP Exams performed at a sufficiently high level to also earn an AP Scholar Award.

Through 34 different college-level courses and exams, AP provides students the opportunity to earn college credit or advanced placement and stand out in the college admission process. The 20 Saipan International School Geckos earning these distinctions had the chance to take as many as 15 AP courses during the junior and senior years.

For the sixth year in a row, SIS has improved upon its AP results. Currently 86% of its students received a 3 or higher on AP exams. **(PR)**

IN LOVING MEMORY

## Maria Luisa Blanco Santos

*Born to Life: 01/02/1942    Called to Eternal Life: 01/24/2022*

*In her new life she now joins her:*

**Parents:** †Monica Tudela Camacho †Lino Quitano Blanco  
**Parents-in-laws:** †Teresa Aquiningoc Terlaje †Jose Ada Santos  
**Siblings:** †David Camacho  
 †Thomas Jesus Camacho  
**Children:** †Lino B. Santos †Theresita Monica B. Santos  
**Son-in-law:** †Herbert Ayuyu Taitingfong  
**Grandchildren:** †Lino B. Santos  
 †Jolisa S. Taitingfong  
**Brothers & Sister-in-laws:** †Rosa Santos Aguon/Ramon M. Aguon  
 †Maria Santos Muna/Esteban T. Muna  
 †Sarbino T. Santos/Carmen F. Santos  
 †Teresita S. Borja, Jose Cruz

*Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:*

**Children/grandchildren:**  
 Francisco Palacios/Annie P. Palacios(Dreighton & family, Colleen Sadie & family)  
 †Lino B. Santos/Emelita T. Santos(John Joseph Aguon/Mayumi Aguon & family,  
 Sonny Emmanuel Santos/Marilena Santos & family, Monica S. Roppul/Alvince  
 Roppul & family, Luisa Marie U. Santos & family, Effierose U. Santos & family)  
 †Theresita Monica B. Santos (Norma S. Reyes/John Joseph P. San Nicolas  
 & family)  
 David B. Santos/Marylaine T. Santos(Patrick Togawa/Joella Rosario & family,  
 Ran Renee Santos)  
 Dora Marie S. Taitingfong/†Herbert A. Taitingfong(Herbert Jr. S. Taitingfong/  
 Shanna S. Castro & family, Jodan, Jovahna/Austin, Justice, Josiah)  
 Effigina S. Camacho/David A. Camacho Jr(Daven, Daron Joe/Alexis, Dustyn,  
 Dayne Luke)  
 Rosemond S. Sword/Garhard R. Sword(Annelise, Garhard Jr. Sword/  
 Elizabeth Sword & family, Curtis Sword/Natalie Sword & child, Immanuel  
 Sword/Leona Sword & family)

**Siblings:** Maria Rosa Blanco Cruz/†Jose Cruz & family  
 Cecilia Camacho Duenas & family  
 Margarita Camacho Sablan & family  
 †David Camacho/Magdalena Dlg Camacho & family  
 †Thomas Jesus Camacho/Michie C. Camacho & family  
 Ricardo Camacho/Margaret Dlg Camacho & family  
 Domitilia C. Govendo/Kenneth Govendo & family

She will be missed by numerous nieces, nephews, godchildren, relatives & friends. Daily mass of intentions is being offered at San Vicente Parish at 6:00PM on Monday & Wednesday, 6:00AM on Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday, 5:30PM on Saturday. On Tuesday, February 1, 2022, at 11:00AM Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated followed by internment services at Mt. Carmel Cemetery where she will be laid to rest.

**Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.**

*Si Yu'us Ma'ase*  
**THE CHILDREN & FAMILY**

Frederic Guintu, Julianne Hall, Cevina Hwang, Guy Yeon



# GOP's 'Together Stronger' headquarters now open



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is joined by numerous Republican candidates for public office and supporters during last Saturday's opening of the CNMI Republican Party's campaign headquarters in Garapan.

The CNMI Republican Party's campaign headquarters is now open.

More than 400 people graced the Jan. 22 event with their presence, and tens of dozens more live-streamed with families and friends who were unable to attend or beyond our borders.

In attendance were numerous Republican candidates for public office, including Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and lieutenant governor candidate Sen. Vinnie Sablan, as well as mayoral candidate Rep. Lee 'Pan' T. Guerrero.

"I am honored to be amongst everyone here at the headquarters of the people," said CNMI GOP president Candace Celis. "This is where much of the work to protect our people and our Marianas will happen. With everyone's help and support we will continue to aid all those in need because together we are stronger."

Following the blessing of the headquarters, Committee-to-Elect chair James Ada expressed gratitude for those in attendance and to supporters who are excited for the campaign journey ahead.

"People join the Republican Party because they believe in our leadership," Ada said. "This administration has done a lot despite the effects of super-typhoons and the worst pandemic in history. But there is still so much work to be done and the continuity of efforts is crucial to accomplish even more for our people and our islands."

Amid the daylong event, residents from all facets of the community engaged in laughter and positive chatter. The upbeat and festive atmosphere brought back childhood mem-

ories for at least one public servant candidate.

"As a little child, I remember going to campaigns and rallies and listening to incumbents and hopefuls speak on stage," Sablan said. Each one of them spoke [of] the need to prepare the children for a bright future and prosperous Marianas. Gov. Torres and I were among the children in those crowds of people. And here we are now—ready to prepare the next generation to lead our Commonwealth into the future. We are beholden to improve the quality of our



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, second from right, and lieutenant governor candidate Sen. Vinnie Vinson Sablan (R-Saipan), second from left, are joined by their respective spouses during last Saturday's opening of the CNMI Republican Party's campaign headquarters in Garapan.

peoples' lives, so let us do that 'Together Stronger.'"

Humbled by the turnout, Torres thanked everyone who made the blessing and opening of the headquarters memorable. He also had memories to share from his service in the Legislature, from the House of Representatives to the Senate, and from being lieutenant governor to the incumbent chief executive.

"From the bottom of my heart, I wish to thank all of you for the love shown to me since Day 1," Torres said. "I first ran for public office when I was 27 years old, and I did it for this reason: to protect our children and elders. Thanks to all of you, I've been blessed with the privilege and ability to have done this. Thank you for the love that you've given me throughout my career as a public servant."

Torres recognized the patience, resiliency, and support of the community to overcome recent adversities. "Together we have constructed and

renovated roads, schools and other critical infrastructure, and we've generated revolutionary jobs and opportunities in IT and cybersecurity. We've overcome natural disasters through collaboration, and we are garnering national and international recognition for how we've responsibly managed the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We did this together because we are a family. We don't leave because of struggles—we collectively hold tight and address issues before us. There isn't a single issue that we cannot resolve because together we are stronger," Torres added.

In the coming days, the CNMI Republican Party will announce its new board members and officers, and publish its schedule of events for the year. For information on joining the movement to Elect Torres-Sablan, contact Celis at (670) 484-1206 or via email at: [cqcelis670@gmail.com](mailto:cqcelis670@gmail.com), or GOP campaign chair Wil Castro at [marianagop@gmail.com](mailto:marianagop@gmail.com). (PR)

By JOSHUA SANTOS  
joshua\_santos@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Bank of Saipan donated \$2,500 yesterday for the American Red Cross-Northern Mariana Islands Chapter's "Red Cross Gala" on Feb. 26.

John Arroyo, who is the chief executive officer of the Bank of Saipan and an NMI Chapter board member, said that he and the Bank of Saipan are "proud to be a member of the American Red Cross."

"We highly believe in their mission and the things that they do for the island, and there is absolutely 100% support from the staff, management, and the board of the Bank of Saipan to do all that we can do to assist the Red Cross," he said.

NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh and board chair Mable A. Glenn thanked Bank of Saipan and Arroyo for their continued support.

"We couldn't do the work that we do—our humanitarian work—without the generous support of our corporate part-

## Bank of Saipan donates \$2,500 for Red Cross Gala



JOSHUA SANTOS

Representatives from the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter and Bank of Saipan staff share a photo at Bank of Saipan headquarters yesterday after the bank presented the chapter with a \$2,500 check towards its "Red Cross Gala" on Feb. 26. Included in this photo are American Red Cross-NMI chapter executive director John Hirsh, board chair Mable A. Glenn, board member Brent Deleon Guerrero, and Bank of Saipan CEO and American Red Cross-NMI Chapter board member John Arroyo.

ners in the community, and the Bank of Saipan for many years has been doing that," said Hirsh.

Hirsh also recognized Ar-

royo for his long history of supporting the American Red Cross both on Saipan and in Guam. "[Arroyo is] very civic-minded and is always

thinking about the community," he added.

On the behalf of the chapter, Glenn gave her "sincerest gratitude" to the Bank of Saipan

for its continued support of the American Red Cross and to Arroyo for his contributions as an NMI Chapter board member.

"The Bank of Saipan has

always been a longstanding company that contributes to our economy and to our community, so we're just so grateful and very excited to have [them] with us [on Feb. 26]," said Glenn.

The "Red Cross Gala" is set for Feb. 26 at Kensington Hotel Saipan. It will be an exclusive, Hollywood-themed event celebrating the Red Cross' 43 years of humanitarian work in the CNMI.

For those interested in sponsoring the event and having tables/seats at the gala, the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter asks you to email Glenn at [mable.glenn@redcross.org](mailto:mable.glenn@redcross.org) or call the NMI Chapter office at 670-234-3459.

American Red Cross-NMI Chapter representatives present at the check handoff yesterday included Hirsh, Glenn, and chapter board member Brent Deleon Guerrero.

Gala donors thus far include McDonald's of Guam and Saipan, Docomo Pacific, Turn-Key Solutions, E-Land Group, and now the Bank of Saipan.



# McDonald's donates \$1K to SCC's Business Person of the Year Gala



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Saipan Chamber of Commerce board member Alex Sablan, McDonald's crewmember Jessa Marie De Jesus, Chamber president Joseph Guerrero, Mable Ayuyu Glenn, and McDonald's depart-

McDonald's Saipan has donated \$1,000 to the Saipan Chamber of Commerce 2021 Business Person of the Year Gala.

"McDonalds of Guam and Saipan has been really active and supportive to the Saipan Chamber of Commerce. We are very excited for their

Business Person of the Year gala and we look forward to a successful event," said McDonald's executive assistant to the president Mable Ayuyu Glenn during last Tuesday's turnover of the donation.

"We want to thank our owner and operators Joe and Marcia Ayuyu for continuing

to believe in the Chamber and everything that they do in terms of the business community," she added.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce 2021 Business Person of the Year Gala will be held at the Kensington Hotel Saipan tomorrow, Jan. 29, 2022. (PR)

## PIC Saipan reopens on Jan. 29

After months of waiting, Pacific Islands Club Saipan is reopening starting this Saturday, Jan. 29.

The reopening covers most of the outlets and facilities, including rooms, waterpark, Seaside Grill Happy Hour, Magellan Sunday Brunch, Isla

Teppanyaki, and more.

Along with the existing reopening, PIC is offering special room rate from Jan. 29 until Feb. 28, 2022.

The Magellan Sunday Brunch is also back. It is always a to-go place for family gatherings, enjoying delicious

food and having a memorable Sunday break with loved ones.

Starting Friday evening (Jan. 28), your favorite happy hour place, the Seaside Grill Happy Hour, is ready to serve and bring back normalcy into your lives.

For inquiries, call 234-7976. (PR)

## TSL Foundation supports Chamber gala



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Joe Guerrero, center, receives the ceremonial check donation of the Tan Siu Lin Foundation for the SCC's Cloaks & Tiaras Business Person of the Year Gala from TanHoldings executive Alex Sablan, second from left during a brief ceremony last Wednesday at the TanHoldings conference room in Garapan. Also in the photo are, from left, SSC secretary Marcia Calvo, TSL Foundation administrative officer Rina Robles, and SCC coordinator Franco Santos.

The Tan Siu Lin Foundation has reaffirmed its commitment to the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and its programs by supporting SCC's Cloaks & Tiaras Business Person of the Year Gala.

The TSL Foundation is providing platinum sponsorship to Chamber's annual fundraiser, which will be held this Saturday, Jan. 29 at the Kensington Hotel Saipan. Funds that will be raised from the gala will be used in the Chamber's scholarship program and in providing online seminars, workforce development training sessions, and support to small businesses on the islands.

"On behalf of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce board, I would like to thank the Tan Siu Lin Foundation and TanHoldings for their continued support to our programs. We are humbled and we appreciate the assistance that we are getting from TanHoldings every year. Their support is channeled through the Chamber to help send students to schools, assist our community in various projects, and strengthen our workforce," said SCC president Joe Guerrero.

Guerrero received the TSL Foundation's sponsorship and donation last Wednesday and was joined in the ceremony by TanHoldings

executive Alex Sablan, SCC secretary Marcia Calvo, and coordinator Franco Santos.

TSL Foundation executive director Merlie Tolentino lauded SCC for its continued efforts in providing scholarship opportunities to CNMI students, who are the future of the local workforce. She would also like to congratulate the awardees at the gala.

Besides the Business Person of the Year, the Chamber will also recognize the Small Business of the Year, Start-up of the Year (new award), Nonprofit of the Year, Saipan Young Professional of the Year, and Chamber Member of the Year awardees in this weekend's event. (PR)



## TEAM EXOTIC AND ISLAND SUMMER AUTO FEST DONATE TO THE RED CROSS

Team Exotic Car Club has made an annual donation to the American Red Cross of the Northern Mariana Islands. "It's inspirational that a small car club takes time out to support a local non-profit like the Red Cross for the past 19 years in a row," said John Hirsh, Executive Director. James Fleming and his Club members have always believed in supporting important community organizations and the Red Cross is grateful for their generosity. This year along with a gift from the Island Summer Auto Fest the Red Cross received over \$1,000.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Paid summer internship at AMP

If you enjoy being outdoors, fishing, exploring your national park and working with our island community you may be eligible for a 12-week internship at American Memorial Park through a partnership with Environment for the Americas. Over the summer, the Fish and Feathers intern will work with park rangers

and partners to help promote safe and sustainable fishing along the park's shores.

This year the park will welcome one Fish and Feathers intern. To be eligible, applicants must be between the ages of 18-30 (military veterans up to age 35), possess U.S. citizenship or legal residence, and have

a strong interest or relevant experience in fishing, biology, aquaculture, recreation, environmental science, communications, education or other related fields.

To learn more and apply visit the Environment for the Americas website at: <https://environmental-americas.org/job/fish-feathers-intern-13/>. The deadline for applications is Feb. 20, 2022. (PR)



# Off The Wall

## Oldest living aquarium fish



Senior biologist Allan Jan feeds Methuselah, a 4-foot-long, 40-pound Australian lungfish that was brought to the California Academy of Sciences in 1938 from Australia, in its tank in San Francisco, Monday, Jan. 24, 2022.

(AP PHOTO/JEFF CHIU)

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)**—Meet Methuselah, the fish that likes to eat fresh figs, get belly rubs and is believed to be the oldest living aquarium fish in the world.

In the Bible, Methuselah was Noah's grandfather and was said to have lived to be 969 years old. Methuselah the fish is not quite that ancient, but biologists at the California Academy of Sciences believe it is about 90 years old, with no known living peers.

Methuselah is a 4-foot-long (1.2-meter), 40-pound (18.1-kilogram) Australian lungfish that was brought to the San Francisco museum in 1938 from Australia.

A primitive species with lungs and gills, Australian lungfish are believed to be the evolutionary link between fish and amphibians.

No stranger to publicity, Methuselah's first appearance in the San Francisco Chronicle was in 1947: "These strange creatures—with green scales looking like fresh artichoke leaves—are known to scientists as a possible 'missing link' between terrestrial

and aquatic animals."

Until a few years ago, the oldest Australian lungfish was at the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago. But that fish, named Granddad, died in 2017 at the age of 95. "By default, Methuselah is the oldest," said Allan Jan, senior biologist at the California Academy of Sciences and the fish's keeper. Methuselah's caretakers believe the fish is female, although it's difficult to determine the species' sex without a risky blood draw. The academy plans to send a tiny sample of her fin to researchers in Australia, who will try to confirm the sex and figure out the fish's exact age.

Jan says Methuselah likes getting rubbed on her back and belly and has a "mellow" personality.

"I tell my volunteers, pretend she's an underwater puppy, very mellow, gentle, but of course if she gets spooked she will have sudden bouts of energy. But for the most part she's just calm," Jan said. Methuselah has developed a taste for seasonal figs.

"She's a little picky and only likes figs when they are fresh

and in season. She won't eat them when they're frozen," said Jeanette Peach, spokeswoman for the California Academy of Sciences.

Organic blackberries, grapes and romaine lettuce are rotated into her daily diet, which also includes a variety of fish, clams, prawns and earthworms, said Charles Delbeek, curator of the museum's Steinhart Aquarium.

The academy has two other Australian lungfish that are younger. Named for their sizes, "Medium" arrived at the museum in 1952 and "Small" in 1990, both from the Mary River, in Queensland, Australia, said Delbeek. They weigh about 25 pounds (11 kilograms) and 15 pounds (7 kilograms), respectively.

The Australian lungfish is now a threatened species and can no longer be exported from Australian waters, so biologists at the academy say it's unlikely they'll get a replacement once Methuselah passes away.

"We just give her the best possible care we can provide, and hopefully she thrives," Jan said.

surrounding the "unexplained death of an elderly male" in the Carlow area. The force said an autopsy would be conducted to determine the cause of the man's death. According to the Irish Times, one of the younger men had inquired about collecting someone's pension and was told that the recipient had to be present. With the help of a companion, he allegedly returned with the dead man's body, the newspaper reported.

### Germany: Inmates fined over prison potato mash fight

**BERLIN (AP)**—Two female inmates at a German prison have been served a hefty fine

for a brawl that began with a food fight. German news agency dpa reported Wednesday that the cellmates at a prison in Augsburg began throwing potato mash at each other following a disagreement. Then one woman threw her entire plate at the other, who responded in kind. The situation then escalated into a brawl in which both inmates were injured, dpa reported. A court in the southern town of Augsburg sentenced one defendant to pay a fine of 2,700 euros (\$3,045) while the other received a fine of 1,800 euros (\$2,030). If they fail to pay, the women can spend another 180 or 120 days behind bars, respectively.

# Science & Technology

## New space telescope reaches final stop a million miles out

**CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)**—The world's biggest, most powerful space telescope arrived at its observation post 1 million miles from Earth on Monday, a month after it lifted off on a quest to behold the dawn of the universe.

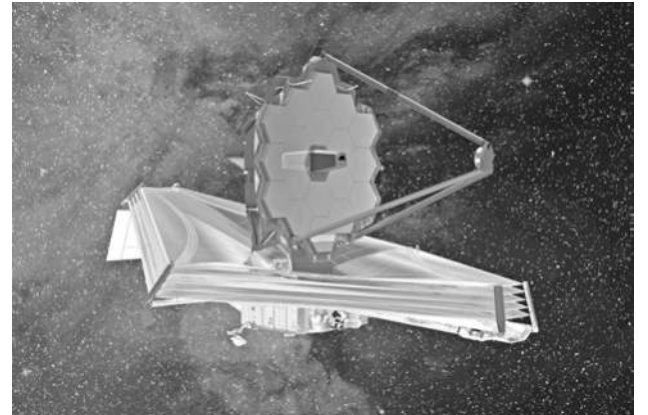
On command, the James Webb Space Telescope fired its rocket thrusters for nearly five minutes to go into orbit around the sun at its designated location, and NASA confirmed the operation went as planned.

The mirrors on the \$10 billion observatory still must be meticulously aligned, the infrared detectors sufficiently chilled and the scientific instruments calibrated before observations can begin in June.

But flight controllers in Baltimore were euphoric after chalking up another success.

"We're one step closer to uncovering the mysteries of the universe. And I can't wait to see Webb's first new views of the universe this summer!" NASA Administrator Bill Nelson said in a statement.

The telescope will enable astronomers to peer back further in time than ever before, all the way back to when the first stars and galaxies were forming 13.7 billion years ago. That's a mere 100 million years from the



This 2015 artist's rendering provided by Northrop Grumman via NASA shows the James Webb Space Telescope.

Big Bang, when the universe was created.

Besides making stellar observations, Webb will scan the atmospheres of alien worlds for possible signs of life.

"Webb is officially on station," said Keith Parrish, a manager on the project. "This is just capping off just a remarkable 30 days."

The telescope was launched from French Guiana on Christmas. A week and a half later, a sunshield as big as a tennis court stretched open on the telescope. The instrument's gold-coated primary mirror—21 feet (6.5 meters) across—unfolds a few days later.

The primary mirror has 18 hexagonal segments, each the size of a coffee table, that will have to be painstakingly aligned so that they see as one—a task that will take

three months.

"We're a month in and the baby hasn't even opened its eyes yet," Jane Rigby, the operations project scientist, said of the telescope's infrared instruments. "But that's the science that we're looking forward to."

Monday's thruster firing put the telescope in orbit around the sun at the so-called second Lagrange point, where the gravitational forces of the sun and Earth balance each other. The 7-ton spacecraft will loop-de-loop around that point while also circling the sun. It will always face Earth's night side to keep its infrared detectors as frigid as possible.

At 1 million miles (1.6 million kilometers) away, Webb is more than four times as distant as the moon.

## Baby whale genetic testing may help save species

**PORTLAND, Maine (AP)**—Greater reliance on genetic testing of baby whales and their mothers can provide more accurate information about a rare species and increase the chances of saving them from extinction, according to the authors of a new scientific study.

The scientists, led by researchers at the New England Aquarium in Boston, studied critically endangered North Atlantic right whales, of which there are fewer than 340 in the world. Their numbers have dropped precipitously in recent years because of high mortality and poor reproduction.

The study's authors analyzed decades of data about the whales and found they had more success tracking the animals' survival, growth rates and life histories when they had access to genetic samples. They published their findings in the journal *Mammalian Biology* on Jan. 20.

The scientists focused on 13 right whale calves that were identified via genetics. They said they were able to determine the age of 12 of the whales and match 11 with their mothers—and even found that four believed to be dead were actually still alive. Right whales have long been tracked using photographs. The photographic archive is still critical, but it's even more useful in tandem with genetic data, said Philip Hamilton, senior scientist at the aquarium's Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life and the lead author on the study.

"The more accurate the information, the better our conservation measures can be targeted," Hamilton said. "Better to understand them, and thus better to save them."

Right whales were once abundant off the East Coast, but were decimated during the

commercial whaling era. The whales are now vulnerable to ship strikes and entanglement in fishing gear, and are the subject of new fishing restrictions to try to save them.

Recently, scientists have also focused on the role of climate change in putting the whales in danger. The whales are aided by protected areas off the coast, but climate change has caused them to leave those areas in search of food, and that puts them at risk, scientists have said.

Science still has a lot to learn about the whales, and more reliance on genetic data can help fill the gaps, said Regina Asmus-Silvia, a biologist and executive director of Whale and Dolphin Conservation North America. Asmus-Silvia, who wasn't involved in the study, said relying solely on photos or acoustic detections provides a snapshot and not a full picture of the whale's status.

### OFFBEAT BRIEFS

#### Irish police investigate claim dead man taken to post office

**LONDON (AP)**—Police in Ireland are investigating reports that the body of a dead man was brought to a post office in an attempt to collect his pension. The Irish Times said a man who appeared to be in his 60s was dragged into the post office in the town of Carlow on Friday, propped up by two younger men. When questioned by staff, the two fled, leaving behind the older man, who was found to be dead. Ireland's national police force, the Garda Síochána, would not discuss details of the case but said officers were investigating circumstances



# Life & Style

## 'Jeopardy!' champion Amy Schneider's history-making run ends

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Jeopardy!" champion Amy Schneider's dazzling streak is over, snapped Wednesday by a Chicago librarian after 40 consecutive wins and nearly \$1.4 million in prize money.

Schneider's success put her in the ranks of Ken Jennings, who's serving as guest host, and the quiz show's other all-time greats. It also made Schneider, a trans woman, a visible symbol of achievement for often-marginalized people.

"It's still a little hard to believe," she said of her impressive run. "It's something that I'm going to be remembered for, and that's pretty great."

New champ Rhone Talsma had the correct response to the final "Jeopardy!" clue for a winning total of \$29,600. Schneider, who found herself in the unusual position of entering the last round short of a runaway, was second with \$19,600.

"I'm still in shock," Talsma said in a statement. "I did not expect to be facing a 40-day champion, and I was excited to maybe see someone else slay the giant. I just really didn't think it was going to be me, so I'm thrilled."

Schneider told The Associated Press that Talsma played well and did a "great job of taking the opportunities when they came up and putting himself position to be able to win."

The answer that stumped Schneider was about countries of the world: The only nation whose name in English ends in an "h" and which is also one of the 10 most populous. (Cue the "Jeopardy!" music—and the response is, "What is

Bangladesh?")

Among her immediate reactions when the game and her streak ended: She was sad but also relieved that "I don't have to come up with anymore anecdotes," the stories that contestants share during game breaks.

Contestants receive their winnings after their final game airs, and Schneider's spending plans include clothes shopping and, especially, travel.

An engineering manager and Dayton, Ohio, native who lives in Oakland, California, Schneider's regular-season play made her No. 2 in consecutive games won, placing her between Jennings with 74 games and Matt Amodio, winner of 38 games in 2021.

Schneider's prize total of \$1,382,800 puts her in fourth place on the regular-season winnings list, behind Jennings (\$2,520,700), James Holzhauer (\$2,462,216) and Amodio (\$1,518,601).

Schneider, will be part of the show's "Tournament of Champions," and is the first trans person to qualify.

She was braced for her streak to end, she told AP.

"I had a feeling my time was winding down, even though it didn't look that way in the scores," Schneider said. The routine of traveling to Los Angeles for tapings—five shows a day, two days a week—was tiring, and that took a toll.

After she surpassed Amodio's tally of consecutive victories, she added, the prospect of trying to break Jennings' long-standing record was "hard to imagine."

Schneider's depth of knowl-



This image released by Sony Pictures Television shows contestant Amy Schneider on the set of "Jeopardy!"

edge, lightning-fast answers and gracious but efficient manner won her a devoted fan base. Comedy writer Louis

Virtel, a former "Jeopardy!" contestant, tweeted earlier this

month that Schneider was like a "case worker assigned to each episode, and when she's done she picks up her briefcase, nods, and leaves."

She was also admired for her handling of anti-trans trolls, with one measured reply prompting a shoutout to her from writer and Broadway star Harvey Fierstein.

"The best outcome of all of this always is going to be whatever help I've been able to offer the trans community," Schneider said. "I'm here because of the sacrifices countless trans people have made, often to the extent of risking their lives. To do my part to move that cause forward, it's really special."

Schneider has a message for "Jeopardy!" viewers who will miss making her part of their daily routine: "I realized that I am really just so sad for all my fans. ... I want to thank them for all their support, and tell them that it's OK."

## Prince Andrew renews attempt to get Giuffre suit dismissed

NEW YORK (AP)—Prince Andrew's lawyers asked a U.S. court again Wednesday to throw out a lawsuit accusing him of sexual abuse, citing multiple legal defenses.

Among them: The lawyers said that if any sexual activity did occur between the prince and Virginia Giuffre, it was consensual.

The court filing made clear that Andrew wasn't admitting sexual contact with Giuffre. But it said if the case wasn't dismissed, the defense wants a trial in which it would argue that her abuse claims "are barred by the

doctrine of consent."

Attorney David Boies, representing Giuffre, responded in a statement asserting Andrew "continues his approach of denying any knowledge or information concerning the claims against him, and purporting to blame the victim of the abuse for somehow bringing it on herself."

The defense request was filed in federal court in Manhattan, where Giuffre sued Andrew in August. The American accused the British royal of sexually abusing her when she was 17 while

she traveled with financier Jeffrey Epstein.

Andrew has strenuously denied Giuffre's allegations and attempted to get the lawsuit tossed. Earlier this month, Judge Lewis A. Kaplan rejected his attempt to win an early dismissal, allowing depositions and other evidence gathering by both parties to move forward.

Wednesday's response was filed by Los Angeles attorneys Andrew Brettler and Melissa Lerner. They say the suit should also be dismissed on several other grounds,

arguing the civil litigation against the prince should be barred because Giuffre is a permanent resident of Australia and bound by a settlement between Epstein and Giuffre.

Giuffre asserted that she met Andrew while she traveled frequently with Epstein between 2000 and 2002, when her lawyers maintain she was "on call for Epstein for sexual purposes" and was "lent out to other powerful men," including Andrew. Her lawsuit said she still suffers significant emotional and psychological distress and harm.

## Old friends in new romance adapt to unfamiliar dynamic

**D**EAR ABBY: I'm in a new relationship with a man I have known for 30 years. We had our own lives, married others, had kids and then split with our spouses. After all this time, we have finally gotten together and discovered we were made for each other. Neither of us has experienced this intense kind of love before.

My problem is that although he tells me often that he loves me and cannot see his life without me, he never compliments me—whether I'm dressed up, or just putting on makeup and looking special. I compliment him all the time.

I have low self-esteem and insecurities due to previous abusive relationships. It's not like I want to hear it constantly, but it would be nice to hear it at least once in a blue moon. Also, there are times I don't think he finds me sexy or attractive. How can I express this without embarrassing us both?

NEEDS VALIDATION IN NEW ENGLAND

**DEAR NEEDS:** Have you told this man what you have expressed to me—that it's hurtful that when you make an extra effort to look nice for him, he seems to ignore it? Is he aware that you suffer from low self-esteem because of previous emotionally abusive relationships?

Honest communication is important, particularly in new

relationships, as well as those between partners who have known each other for a long time although not on an intimate level. While the two of you are basking in the flowering of this unexpected passion, you still have to get to know each other.

How he reacts to the conversation and whether he's willing to put forth some extra effort will tell you everything you need to know about a future with him.

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband passed away three years ago. We were together for one month shy of 32 years, married for the last 16 of them. I was so happy and proud to be "Mrs. P." Since his passing, people have started calling me Miss P., and I'm very upset about it. Abby, my husband died. I am a widow! I'm NOT divorced, and I'm NOT single. I'm still married—at least in my heart and mind I am.

Why do people think it's OK to call a widow "Miss" just because her husband is gone? And before you ask, yes, I have mentioned it to them, but some of them keep saying it. Truthfully, I feel like doing what the old AT&T commercial used to say and "reach out and touch someone" (lightly) on the jaw when they do it. Thank you for letting me vent. What do you think about this?

MRS. P. FOR LIFE

## DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



**DEAR MRS. P.:** The term "Miss" applies to a woman who has never married. You have earned your "stripes." If you prefer to be called Mrs. P., that is your privilege. Those who are considerate of your feelings will respect your wishes and extend that courtesy. Give anyone who chooses to ignore your wishes a final warning and, if the person continues to address you as "Miss," give them a wide berth.

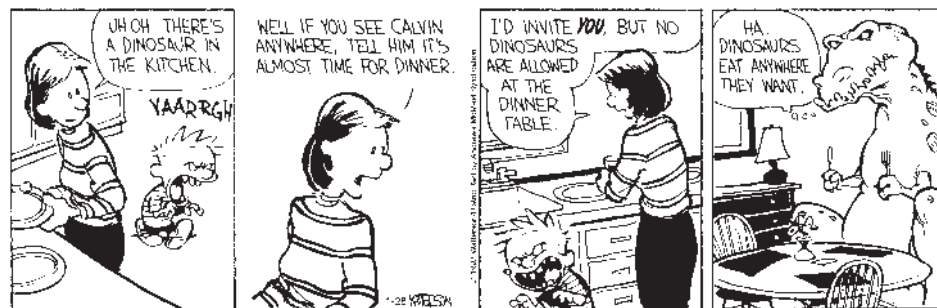
For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



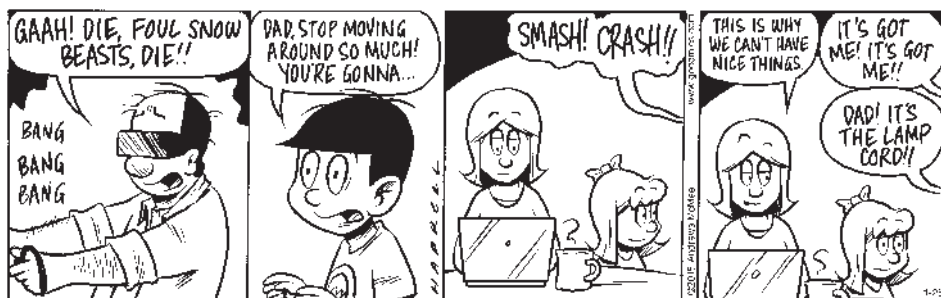
## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



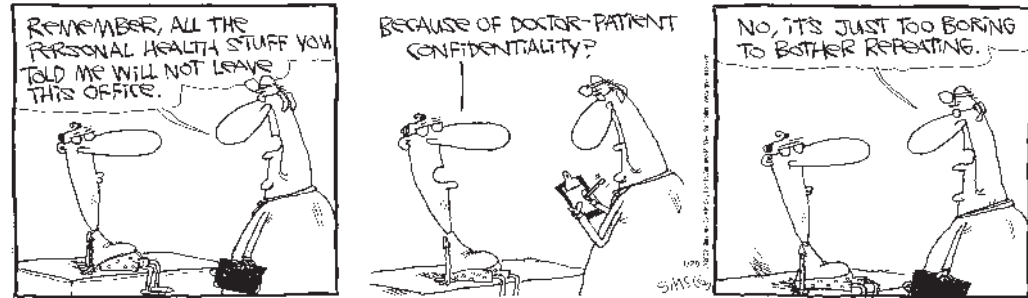
## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

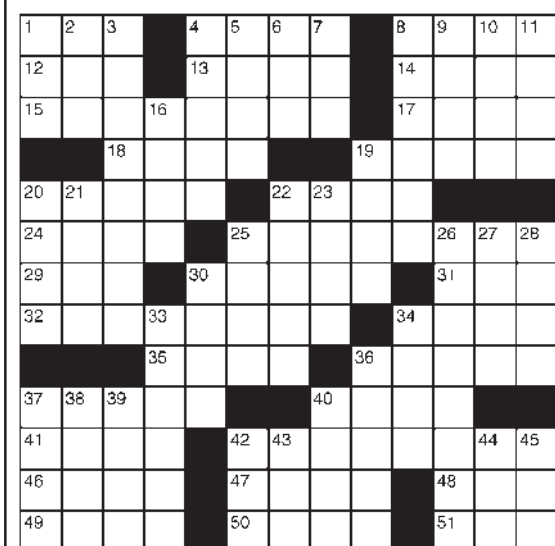
1 Canine greeting  
4 Family  
8 Head, to Henri  
12 Poetic tribute  
13 Pudding variety  
14 — Bator  
15 Excoriate  
17 Picked up the tab  
18 Speck  
19 Pablo Casals' instrument  
20 Tightly packed  
22 Actor Julia  
24 Showy flower  
25 Spoofs  
29 Early hrs.  
30 Heroic tales  
31 "Cock-a-doodle—!"  
32 Bewailed  
34 "Don't ask" initials

**DOWN**

1 MSN alternative  
2 Vitamin stat  
3 Audre Lorde's cause  
4 Wooden box  
5 "Mona —"  
6 Revue segment  
7 Born  
8 Elvis' birthplace  
9 Mideast airline  
10 Shadow  
11 Within (Pref.)  
16 Employer  
19 Coffee servings  
20 Use an old phone  
21 Gospel singer Franklin  
22 Stormed  
23 Make — dash for  
25 Overdue  
26 Epic journeys  
27 Cranny  
28 Weeps  
30 Peevish fit  
33 Decrees  
34 Bryn —  
36 Blue Grotto  
37 Corleone patriarch  
38 "Let's do it"  
39 Logical  
40 Urban haze  
42 Myrna of film  
43 Commotion  
44 "— hoo!"  
45 Dine

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

**Yesterday's answer 1-28**



## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Ariel Winter, 24; Elijah Wood, 41; Sarah McLachlan, 54; Frank Darabont, 63.

**Happy Birthday:** Honesty is the best policy. Get to the point, and you'll accomplish the most. Put your heart into what you believe in, and you won't be disappointed. Watch what others do, but don't follow suit. Offering support from a distance will leave you more time to nurture and build a life that makes you happy. Take control and do your best. Your numbers are 5, 17, 22, 24, 33, 36, 40.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Complete your to-do list before moving on to fun and games. You'll enjoy yourself more if you take care of stressful matters first so you can enjoy downtime with someone or do something you love worry-free. ★★★★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Joint ventures aren't in your best interest. Don't trust someone to handle matters appropriately. Use your intelligence and do the leg-work yourself if you want things to sway in your favor. Take charge and don't look back. ★★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Emotional deception is prevalent. Whether someone is playing with your feelings or you refuse to see the truth, shake it off and be realistic about what to do next. Don't jeopardize your position, reputation or opportunities. Be honest. ★★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Call on someone who shares your enthusiasm, and you'll have fun. Your ability to turn something simple into a gala affair will win hearts and favors. Love is in the stars, and a ro-

mantic gesture will bring you closer to someone special. ★★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Socialize, network and connect with people who interest you, but don't overspend or let indulgent behavior take over. Moderation will keep you levelheaded and on top of your game, and the money you save will pay for something that helps you excel. ★★★★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Stay calm, follow through with your plans. Taking better care of yourself will result in compliments that lift your spirits. Wear your heart on your sleeve and share your intentions. Love and romance will enhance your life. ★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Look out for someone vulnerable. Your assistance will make a difference, even if it isn't acknowledged immediately. Refuse to let anyone bring you down or discourage you from doing what's right. Don't take a health risk. Avoid harm's way. ★★★★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Do what feels right, and use your experience, knowledge and connections to reach your destination. Adjust your surroundings to create a space that unleashes your creativity and encourages you to follow your heart and pursue your dreams. Romance is favored. ★★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Listen, digest and discard what's not valid. Don't labor over what others believe; choose what's important to you. Don't be afraid to do your own thing and invest your time, effort and money into something that matters to you. ★★★

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** A unique change to how you do business, handle your money will excite you. A change is in the air, and adjustments that turn your space into a playground for your imagination will have new beginnings. Love is featured. ★★★

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Set some guidelines to help you stick to your schedule. A responsible attitude will enhance your chance to outmaneuver anyone trying to stand in your way. Trust your instincts and proceed with confidence, determination and your eye on the finish line. ★★★★★

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Think before you offer information that's not factual. Leading someone astray will come back to bite you. Let your actions speak for you. Be kind, considerate and helpful, and you'll maintain a stellar reputation and attract a positive response. ★★

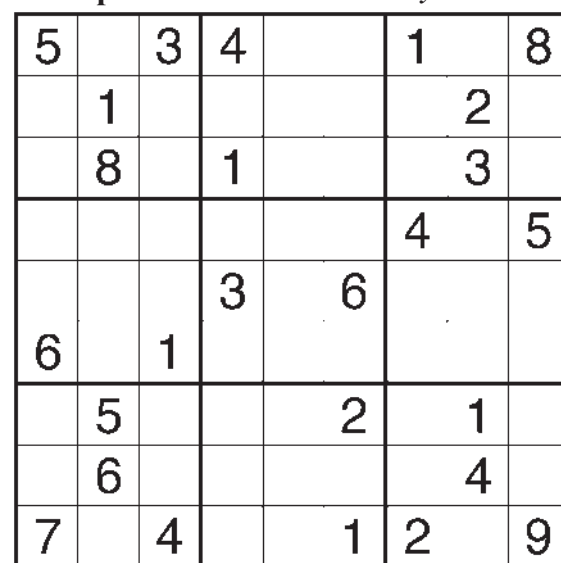
**Birthday Baby:** You are patient, compassionate and complimentary. You are insightful and unpredictable.

★: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★★: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★★: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★★: Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



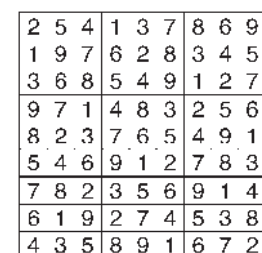
Difficulty Level ★★★★★

1/28

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

WHEN IN ROME

Solution: 5 letters



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Alberto, Antipasto, Antique, Arch, Arts, Baroque, Baths, Borghese, Campo, Centro, Cobblestone, Colosseum, Designer, Eternal, Forum, Gelato, Hill, Italian, Italy, Laterano, Lazio, Metro, Monti, Museums, Outlets, Palatine, Pantheon, Pasta, Peninsula, Piazza, Popolo, San Giovanni, Signal, Spanish, Steps, Tourists, Trastevere, Trevi, Vendors, Villa

**Yesterday's Answer: Consecutive**  
Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand! Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6488.



# Hornets' 158 points season-high in NBA, most for franchise

**INDIANAPOLIS** (AP)—The Charlotte Hornets broke the franchise's single-game scoring record on Wednesday night and notched the highest point total in the NBA this season in their 158-126 rout of the Indiana Pacers.

Kelly Oubre Jr. had a career-high 39 points, going 10 of 15 on 3s — also a career best. LaMelo Ball had his fourth triple double of the season with 29 points, 13 assists and 10 rebounds. Four players had 20 or more points, and the Hornets matched a season-best by making 24 3s.

With the victory, Charlotte snapped a two-game losing streak and pulled off a four-game sweep of the injury-depleted Pacers.

Indiana was led by Goga Bitadze and rookie Isaiah Jackson, who both scored 17 points. The Pacers have lost three in a row and seven of nine.

## Cavaliers 115, Bucks 99

In Cleveland, Kevin Love scored 25 points, Cedi Osman added 23 and Cleveland beat defending NBA champion Milwaukee.

The Cavs made 19 3-pointers, won for the eighth time in nine games and leap-frogged Milwaukee in the Eastern Conference standings. Darius Garland scored 19 and rookie Evan Mobley had 16 for the Cavs.

Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 26 points after missing a game with knee soreness, but had seven of Milwaukee's 19 turnovers that led to 31 points for Cleveland. Bobby Portis added 22 points and Khriston Middleton 21 for the Bucks.

## Clippers 111, Magic 102

In Orlando, Fla., Amir Coffey



Charlotte Hornets guard Kelly Oubre Jr., right, shoots over Indiana Pacers forward Oshae Brissett during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Indianapolis, Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2022.

scored 19 points, Luke Kennard added 17 and Los Angeles rallied to defeat Orlando one day after matching the second-largest comeback in NBA history.

The Clippers were down by maximum of 14 points on Wednesday, and trailed by two to start the fourth quarter, in which they outscored the Magic 35-24.

Seven Clippers made 3-pointers.

Orlando's Franz Wagner led the team with 21 points and nine assists, while Cole Anthony had 19 points, eight assists and six rebounds. Rookie Jalen Suggs scored 14 points, as did veteran guard Gary Harris.

## Nuggets 124, Nets 118

In New York, Nikola Jokic had 26 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists, Austin Rivers added 25 points off the bench and Denver outlasted Brooklyn.

Will Barton had 21 points and 10 rebounds and DeMarcus Cousins chipped in 13 points off the bench for the Nuggets.

The Nets were playing

without All-Star guard James Harden, who got the night off to rest an ailing left hamstring a day after playing 38 minutes in Tuesday's loss against the Los Angeles Lakers.

Rookie Cam Thomas scored 25 points and Patty Mills added 21 for Brooklyn, which blew an 12-point second-half lead.

## Hawks 121, Kings 104

In Atlanta, Bogdan Bogdanovic scored 18 points in his return from a knee injury, Onyeka Okongwu also scored 18 off the bench and Atlanta recovered from a slow start to beat Sacramento.

The Hawks relied on their backups for their fifth consecutive win. Atlanta's bench outscored Sacramento's backups 70-24, including a 41-11 advantage in the first half. Harrison Barnes led Sacramento with 28 points.

The Kings suffered their fifth consecutive loss overall and 10th straight on the road.

Trae Young scored 17 points with 10 assists for Atlanta, which led 67-50 at halftime after trailing by 14 in the first quarter.

## Bulls 111, Raptors 105

In Toronto, DeMar DeRozan scored 29 points, Zach LaVine added 23 and Chicago beat Toronto.

Nikola Vucevic also scored 17 points and grabbed 15 rebounds, notching his fifth straight double-double and helping the Bulls win consecutive games for the first time since Jan. 7.

Gary Trent Jr. led the Raptors with 32 points, while OG Anunoby added 23 points. Toronto has lost six of its last nine games.

Chicago opened the game on a 14-2 run and didn't miss a field goal attempt through the first six minutes. The Bulls finished the first quarter shooting 66.7% from the floor.

## Grizzlies 118, Spurs 110

In San Antonio, Ja Morant matched a season high with 41 points in Memphis' win over San Antonio, which spoiled Dejounte Murray's 14th career triple-double — tying a Spurs franchise record.

Murray tied the game at 106 with a step-back 12-foot jump-

er that trickled into the basket with 4:52 remaining. The Grizzlies responded as they had all night, getting an offensive rebound that led to a 3-pointer by Jaren Jackson Jr. Memphis held the lead from there.

Murray had 16 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds to match David Robinson's team mark. It was the 10th triple-double of the season for the Spurs' fifth-year point guard.

Jackson finished with 22 points and nine rebounds in the Grizzlies' fourth straight victory over the Spurs. Desmond Bane added 20 points in his return from a three-game absence while in the league's health and safety protocols.

Devin Vassell had 20 points off the bench, and Keldon Johnson and Jakob Poeltl added 18 points each for the Spurs, who have lost nine of 12.

## Heat 110, Knicks 96

In Miami, Duncan Robinson scored 25 points while shooting 7 of 11 from 3-point range, leading four Miami players with 20 or more points in its victory New York.

Jimmy Butler added 22 points, Tyler Herro scored 21 and P.J. Tucker had 20 for the Eastern Division-leading Heat, who have won eight of 10.

Miami never trailed and maintained a double-digit advantage after outscoring New York 30-16 in the first quarter. Dewayne Dedmon's two free throws late in the third quarter gave the Heat their largest lead at 88-58.

Although he was limited to six points, Bam Adebayo had 11 assists and eight rebounds for Miami, which won its sixth straight at home against New York.

## Mavericks 132, Trail Blazers 112

In Portland, Ore., Luka Don-

cic had 15 points, 10 rebounds and 15 assists for his sixth triple-double this season, and the Dallas Mavericks led wire-to-wire in a 132-112 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers on Wednesday night.

It was Dončić's franchise-leading 42nd career triple double. He's one away from matching Fat Lever for 10th on the NBA all-time list.

Jalen Brunson added 20 points and 11 assists for Dallas, which led by as many as 23 points and had seven players finish in double figures.

Anfernee Simons led Portland with 23 points and CJ McCollum added 20.

## Suns 105, Jazz 97

In Salt Lake City, Devin Booker had 43 points and a career-high 12 rebounds, Chris Paul scored 15 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter and the Phoenix Suns extended their winning streak to eight with a 105-97 victory over the Utah Jazz on Wednesday night.

Booker paced the Suns through three quarters, but didn't get a shot in the fourth until he missed a runner with 3:45 to play. But Paul took over the offensive burden with his mid-range jumpers and drives to the basket.

The Jazz trailed 98-94 when Hassan Whiteside committed an offensive foul and a technical. Booker made two technical free throws around a jumper that beat the shot clock to give the Suns the cushion they needed.

Playing without Donovan Mitchell (concussion) and Rudy Gobert (left calf strain), the Jazz got a boost from Jordan Clarkson, who scored 16 of his team-high 26 points in the fourth quarter. Whiteside had 16 points and 11 rebounds, and Mike Conley also scored 16 points and added 10 assists for the Jazz, who dropped their ninth game in the last 11.

# \$22

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# Big Papi elected to HOF; Bonds, Clemens, Schilling left out

By JAKE SEINER  
AP BASEBALL WRITER



David Ortiz gazed at his phone, his pursed lips revealing nerves rarely seen from one of the game's great clutch hitters.

Pedro Martinez's hand rested on Ortiz's shoulder, and Martinez grinned when the good news came through. The former teammates embraced, and Martinez welcomed Ortiz into a rare space in baseball history.

Big Papi is bound for Cooperstown — and on the first ballot, too.

Ortiz was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in his first try Tuesday, while steroid-tainted stars Barry Bonds and Roger Clemens were denied entry in their final year under consideration by the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

Ortiz, a 10-time All-Star over 20 seasons mostly with the Boston Red Sox, was named on 77.9% of ballots, clearing the 75% threshold needed for enshrinement. He's the 58th player inducted in his first time up for consideration.

"Man, it's a wonderful honor to be able to get in on my first rodeo," Ortiz said.

Big Papi was among baseball's most recognizable faces through the 2000s and 2010s. His enormous grin endeared him to fans, but the Dominican's hulking frame menaced pitchers, especially in the late innings. Three of his 23 career game-ending hits came during Boston's drought-breaking 2004 postseason, when the Red Sox thwarted the rival



Former Boston Red Sox player David Ortiz celebrates his election to the baseball hall of fame with his father Leo Ortiz, left, MLB Hall of Famer Pedro Martinez, center, and Fernando Cuzza, right, moments after receiving the news in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2022.

Yankees and then won their first World Series title in 86 years.

He's the fourth Hall of Famer born in the Dominican Republic, joining Juan Marichal, Martinez and Vladimir Guerrero.

"I can imagine how New England has to feel about one of its babies getting into the Hall of Fame today," Ortiz said. "I'm not even going to tell you about the Dominican Republic."

The left-handed hitter was signed by Seattle as a teenager and traded to Minnesota as a minor leaguer. He made his major league debut with the Twins in 1997 but hardly looked like a future Hall of Famer there. He was released in 2002, signed by Boston and slugged 31 homers the

next season.

Ortiz said he joined the Red Sox to learn what made stars like Martinez, Manny Ramirez and Nomar Garciaparra great. Martinez helped pave the way, encouraging first-year general manager Theo Epstein to sign the 6-foot-3 slugger.

"Once I figured it out, it was going to be a wrap," Ortiz said. "That team was surrounded by so many superstars, and I went in there like a sponge ready to learn."

Martinez became a mentor for his countryman. Now, they share the honor of being first-ballot inductees.

"I feel so proud to have been your teammate, to have been your brother, to have been someone there for you when you needed me," Martinez said. "I'm so glad I have

you in my life.

"Well deserved," he added. "Welcome to Cooperstown."

Ortiz batted .286 with 541 home runs with Boston and Minnesota while making 88% of his plate appearances as a designated hitter, the most by anyone in the Hall. He passes Edgar Martinez, who was a DH for 71.7% of his plate appearances.

Ortiz also has performance-enhancing drug baggage, but enough voters looked past a reported positive test that came during survey testing in 2003 that was supposed to be anonymous. Ortiz has denied using steroids, and Commissioner Rob Manfred said in 2016 "I think it would be wrong" to exclude him from the Hall of Fame based on that lone test.

"I never failed a test, so what does that tell you?" Ortiz said.

Ortiz will be enshrined in Cooperstown, New York, on July 24 along with era committee selections Buck O'Neil, Minnie Miñoso, Gil Hodges, Tony Oliva, Jim Kaat and Bud Fowler.

Bonds, Clemens, Curt Schilling and Sammy Sosa were all rejected in their 10th and final year on the BBWAA ballot. Bonds is MLB's career home run leader and Clemens won a record seven Cy Young Awards, but voters denied them the game's highest honor over allegations they used PEDs. Bonds got 66% of the vote, and Clemens was at 65.2%.

"My family and I put the HOF in the rear view mirror ten years ago," Clemens said on Twitter. "Hopefully everyone can now close this book and keep their eyes forward focusing on what is really important in life."

Schilling's support dropped off sharply after he finished 16 votes shy in 2021. Many voters chose not to back the right-hander due to hateful remarks he has made in retirement toward Muslims, transgender people, journalists and others.

Schilling asked the Hall to remove him from this year's voting, but he remained an option. He was named on 58.6% of ballots, down from 71.1% last year.

"I say it every year and especially this year, focus on who did get in," Schilling tweeted. "@davidortiz deserved a 1st ballot induction! Congratulations my friend you earned it! #bigpapiHoF"

Bonds, Clemens, Schilling and Sosa are done on the BBWAA ballot, but they will be considered again next year by the Today's Game era committee. The 16-person committee of Hall members, executives and veteran media members will convene in December to consider players who played between 1988-2016 and are no longer eligible for BBWAA selection.

"Not having them join me is hard for me to believe," Ortiz said of Bonds and Clemens. "Those guys did it all."

Among other first-timers on the ballot, Alex Rodriguez and Jimmy Rollins got the most support.

Rodriguez won three MVPs and hit 696 homers, fourth most of all time, but also has PED use clouding his case. He was banned by Major League Baseball for the entire 2014 season after violating the league's drug policy. Voters named him on 34.3% of ballots.

Rollins, a four-time Gold Glove winner with Philadelphia, appeared on 9.4% of ballots and was the only other first-timer to earn the 5% necessary to remain under consideration. Joe Nathan, Tim Lincecum and Ryan Howard were among 10 one-and-done players.

The only others to earn more than 50% support were third baseman Scott Rolen (63.2%, up from 52.9%), first baseman Todd Helton (52%, up from 44.9%) and reliever Billy Wagner (51%, up from 46.4%). Outfielder Andruw Jones also made gains, rising to 41.1% from 33.9%.

## Baseball harmed itself more than Bonds ever did

By JIM LITKE  
AP SPORTS COLUMNIST

Whatever harm Barry Bonds did to baseball pales in comparison to the damage baseball inflicted on itself both at the time and since. So say what you will about the steroids era, at least the games were still worth watching.

You can't say that about baseball today, assuming it's even available on a TV set where you live. The sport's popularity is buckling faster than the knees of a hitter fooled by Clayton Kershaw's curveball. The national audience for last season's World Series — roughly 12 million viewers — was less than half what it was barely two decades ago. A friend tried to put the best face on that vanishing act by saying baseball has become a "regional" game; that's just another way of saying it's on the road to becoming a niche sport.

If you drew up a list of

things that would make baseball better tomorrow, reckoning with its past would be lucky to make it. Yet it might help explain how we got here.

Bonds and a few of his juiced fellow travelers — notably Roger Clemens and Sammy Sosa, whose eligibility on the writers' ballot for the Hall of Fame ran out this year as well — put on a fireworks show that pulled the game out of a rut dug when owners canceled the remainder of the 1994 season after players went on strike. People on both sides of the labor-management divide got rich, which is why nobody bothered to ask where all the pyrotechnics came from.

In case you haven't heard, we're already eight weeks into another lockout and there are precious few signs it will be settled before the scheduled start of spring training on Feb. 16. Even if camps open by then, there isn't nearly

enough time — let alone will — to make improvements to the product on the field. And the game desperately needs overhauling.

Most pitchers only know how to throw two pitches anymore, fast and faster. Hitters have become a procession of strikeouts, interrupted by the occasional solo home run. No one bothers to run the bases anymore. If it looks as though players are simply standing around, that's because most of them are.

"This is a game designed to be played by nine men, not two," is how Theo Epstein, the boy-wonder former general manager who ended World Series championship droughts in both Boston and Chicago, said last summer.

Epstein is currently leading Major League Baseball's latest effort to examine how and where the game could be tweaked to help lure back

longtime fans and attract a new generation. The plan is to avoid the kind of short-term fix that steroids provided last time.

"No one is looking to reinvent the wheel here," Epstein said in the same interview. "This is the greatest game in the world and we want to preserve the essence. A lot of this is restoring the game to the way it's historically been played."

Tradition was baseball's strong suit for a century or so — until suddenly it wasn't. Fans alienated by the truncated 1994 season and lost World Series that year stubbornly stayed away from ballparks upon baseball's return. At least at first. But then, in short order, Bonds and Sosa and Mark McGwire began routinely launching baseballs where none had gone before and people flocked back to watch. Baseball didn't just get its mojo back — remember the Nike ad, "Chicks dig the long ball"? — suddenly

it was hip, too.

Now, of course, we know what fueled that rocket ship. There's still no reliable number for how many players used performance-enhancing drugs, but Bonds and the rest of the inflatable sluggers so dominated the screen that nobody thought to look at the players in the background. For every slugger like Rafael Palmeiro who got busted while cashing in the big bucks, there were plenty more Ryan Franklins, then a 32-year-old journeyman reliever just trying to make one more paycheck.

No matter, the owners paid them all and looked the other way because they kept the turnstiles spinning. Drug testing with penalties for positive tests began in 2004 and though Bonds always beat them, three years later not a single team offered the 43-year-old slugger a contract even though he was still one of the best hitters in

the game.

Around the same time, Michael Lewis' book "Moneyball" detailed the growing analytics movement that ultimately made defensive shifts commonplace, and more strikeouts meant more pitches and longer games with even less action in between.

Restoring the game, if that's even possible, would be a lengthy effort and there's no guarantee it would resonate with younger fans.

"There's a lot more consensus on the direction of where the game should go," Epstein said about the results of a fan survey. "A lot more balls in play, a lot more athleticism, a lot more action."

If MLB is serious, that effort will require a ton of investment and abandoning the kind of short-term thinking that got baseball in this mess in the first place. The game's power brokers should know by now that guys like Bonds, who turned the ship around, don't come along very often.



# Southern bounces back; Lady Dolphins win

By MARK RABAGO

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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Saipan Southern High School bounced back from a heart-breaker in their last game, while the Marianas High School girls varsity made mincemeat of the Lady Manta Rays in the IT&E Interscholastic Boys High School Basketball League last Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Manta Rays didn't give Da'ok Academy any quarter from the get-go and buried them under an avalanche of points and led 14-1 after the first 12 minutes of action. They did allow their

counterparts to score 5 points in the second half, but SSSH continued to pour it on with an additional 22 points in the final half to finish the game with a 30-point win.

Frankie Satur led the Manta Rays with 10 points, while Rasg Asauo and Aaron Magno tossed in 5 and 4 markers, respectively. Jess Pua scored 4 points and Austin Christopher 2 in the loss.

The Lady Dolphins, meanwhile, held SSSH scoreless in the second half en route to a 22-6 win. MHS led 14-6 after the first half and then put on the defensive clamps on the Lady Manta Rays in the second to come out with the 16-point win.

Angelyn Roligat paced MHS with 8 points with Marielle Lopez pumping in 7 markers in support. All of SSSH's 6 points were scored by Janes Elias.

**SSHS 36** – Satur 10, Asauo 5, Magno 4, Garcia 3, Muna 3, Factor 2, Quitugua 2, Guilles 2, Patricio 2, Teregeyo 2.

**Da'ok Academy 6** – Pua 4, Christopher 2.

**Scoring by halves:**  
14-1, 36-6.

**MHS 22** – Roligat 8, Lopez 7, Pangelinan 3, Joyce 2, Ramarui 1, Mendoza 1.

**SSHS 6** – Elias 6.

**Scoring by halves:**  
14-6, 22-6.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Marianas High School's Angellyn Roligat, left, and Princes Cania, right, challenge the shot of Saipan Southern High School's Jane Elias during their game in the IT&E Interscholastic Girls High School Basketball League last Wednesday at the MHS Gymnasium.

## AVENDANO

From Page 32

native said windy conditions factored in his bad game last Saturday.

"The conditions at the back nine were very windy with rain that's why other players' scores went down. I always play nine holes so I'm more used to a short game. I'm also not prepared playing in rainy and windy conditions. Veteran

players like Lito and Mike can make their ball fly low, which is good for a windy game. I'm just really lucky that I had a really low score in the first round," he said.

Asked who is he dedicating his first ever Ace of Aces championship to, Avendano pointed to Fil-Taga members who passed away the last couple of years—Raffy Piamonte and Larry Pascual.

"I want to dedicate my win to these two players. Both

worked hard to keep Fil-Taga active," he said.

Coming in second to Avendano was March ace winner Bae Hak Chon with his two-round score of 149 that was good for a net 74.5 average. Mike Cruz, the September ace winner, actually finished tied with Bae but lost in a scorecard tiebreak.

A total of 10 Fil-Taga members participated in the club's Ace of Aces tourney. They are the following with their two-

## Cepeda pleasantly surprised MRA continues to grow



JOSEPH CHIN

Marianas Racing Association president Charles Cepeda in action during the 2021 Monster Energy Point Series Race at the Cowtown Race Track.

By MARK RABAGO

mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

As the Marianas Racing Association revs up for the start of the 2022 Monster Energy Point Series Race this Sunday at the Cowtown Race Track, MRA president Charles Cepeda can't help but be pleasantly surprised how the sport continues to thrive on Saipan.

"As the current president of MRA, I am extremely surprised in a very good way that the interest of the members and community of motocross continues to grow on Saipan. I thank the members, the parents, the family, the whole community for the continued support and participation," he said.

Cepeda did acknowledge that motocross is not like every other sport and MRA does its due diligence in making it as safe as possible.

"The sport is extreme and dangerous which is why we all need to be in sync when safety is concerned, both for members and riders and our fans who come out to watch. That is the reason we tap into as much resources available

for managing Cowtown and keeping it safe for everyone."

For the upcoming season, Cepeda is proud to announce some new innovations expected to make the season more exciting.

"MRA has added a new Intermediate Class to the lineup in the 125cc, 250cc, and 450cc open motorcycle division. Last year there were just two classes—Novice Class and Expert Class.

With the Top 10 race finishers from last year's season in the Novice Class improving substantially, we decided it was time to add an intermediate division. These Top 10 riders have improved, but are still not ready to compete at the Expert Class and will now have a whole other year to improve and possibly advance up to the Expert Class in 2023."

Cepeda said MRA also has a spanking new start gate and added new obstacles and jumps to the motocross track.

"We recently installed our new start gate where 20 racers can line up alongside in preparation for race action. With the new starting gate in place, racers now have abso-

lutely no chance of 'jumping the start' and will get stuck in the gate if they try to start prematurely. This definitely makes the start fair for each racer and creates a new challenge for all. We have also added some new obstacles and jumps so fans will be seeing more high-flying action come race day!"

MRA kicks off the season with Round 1 of the points race this Sunday, Jan. 30.

The rest of the rounds are as follows: Round 2 on Feb. 27, Round 3 on March 27, Round 4 on April 24, Round 5 on May 29, Round 6 on July 31, and Round 7 on Aug. 28.

"We are very excited about our 2022 points season which is set to kick off on Sunday Jan. 30. at 10am at the Cowtown Raceway Park! Each race is on the last Sunday of the month."

If you are interested in becoming a member of MRA or have any questions about dirt bikes and motocross, contact MRA vice president Cuki Alvarez at (670) 783-4662 or president Charles Cepeda at (670) 483-6435 for more information.

## EXHIBITION

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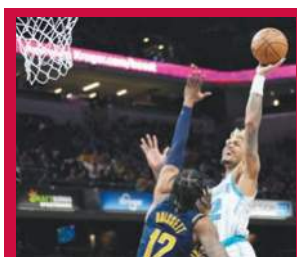
After the first 15 minutes of the first period, our pregame jitters melted away and the All-Stars maintained their composure, and had some great passing, building up momentum from our defensive line. The second and third periods were our strongest sets of the game, and I am so proud of the team and

their effort," said McClellan, who was also part of the squad's starting 11.

She hopes to see more exhibition matches to benefit both teams.

"These exhibition matches are a great opportunity for the All-Stars to play together full field, and help the WNT develop their skills against a team that has a completely different game style and pace of play," McClellan said.





**Hornets' 158 points season-high in NBA, most for franchise**

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

**Southern bounces back; Lady Dolphins win**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE



**Barnhouse**

## CNMI weightlifting national team for Mini Games bared

By **MARK RABAGO**  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

CNMI Weightlifting president John Davis yesterday morning announced that the federation has named 10 men and five women to the CNMI National Weightlifting Team for this year's Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games.

The men's team is composed of Raymond Santos (55 kg), Leowell Cristobal (67 kg), Joshua Meneses (73 kg), Joseph "Joey" Tudela (81 kg), Emmanuel Aquino (81 kg), Leonardo "Leo" Apelo (89 kg), Angel San Nicolas (96 kg), David Barnhouse (102 kg), Joey Colisao (109 kg), and Jason

Limes (109+ kg)

The women's team is made up of Pipit Ball (64 kg), Cheyanne Manuel (71 kg), Antonette Labausa (76 kg), Riella Ichiuo (81 kg), and Raegine Camacho (87 kg).

Barnhouse, who along with Labausa serve as coaches of the team, said the selection

concluded a long process for CNMI Weightlifting.

"We opened up training last year and selected the team from those participants," he said.

Barnhouse has pretty lofty expectations when asked how many medals the CNMI National Weightlifting Team will

win in the Mini Games the CNMI will be hosting for the first time ever.

He predicts the CNMI medal haul in the sport will range between three and nine gold medals plus a smattering of silver and bronze medals. Barnhouse also sees the team breaking a couple of Oceania weightlifting records.



# Avendano is 2021 Ace of Aces champ

By **MARK RABAGO**  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

**R**uben Avendano leaned on his impressive first round score to compensate for a pedestrian second round to win the Fil-Taga Golfers Association's Ace of Aces Tournament, which had its awards ceremony last Saturday at the Jang Gun Korean Restaurant in Garapan.

The 62-year-old Pacific Home Appliances staff shot only net 78 (gross 96, 46-50) in the second round last Saturday at the Kingfisher Golf Links, but he already did his heavy lifting a week prior with a net 67 (gross 86, 43-43) at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort. In the end, he finished with a two-round score of 145 for a net 72.5 average.

Avendano, the July Ace of the Month winner, had little

faith winning his first Ace of Aces trophy due to how he poorly played last weekend, especially in the back nine.

"My first thought was I'm already behind because my back nine was really bad. But when the scoresheets came in most back nine scores were not so good except for Mike's [Cruz], Lito's [Mendoza], and Bae's [Hak Chon]."

The Manila, Philippines  
**See AVENDANO on Page 31**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fil-Taga Golfers Association's Ace of Aces Tournament champion Ruben Avendano, second from left, poses with other 2021 monthly winners at the awards ceremony last Saturday at the Jang Gun Korean Restaurant in Garapan.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Women All-Star Team's Shawna Brennfleck, left, and the NMI Women's U18 Team's Jannah Casarino ward off each other as they battle for the ball during their exhibition match in the NMI Soccer Training Center last Monday.

## Exhibition match brings out positive

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**  
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REPORTER

Officials of the two women's teams that played an exhibition match at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last Monday welcomed the positive signs they saw from their respective squads.

Angie Ito, who coached the NMI Women's U18 National Team that forced the Women's All-Star to a draw, 4-4, recognized the commitment of her young crew to the team, as they held their ground against an experienced opponent.

"The U18 squad played well together. It was their first time to play without the national team senior players

so certain players understood that they have to step up and support and lead the team," said Ito.

The U18 group duelled the Women's All-Star Team that has a combination of former national team players, current senior women's team members, and mainstays from the Dove Women's League.

"We had good movement with the ball and many scoring opportunities as well. I saw that the players tried to play as a unit defending and attacking-wise. You can see the level of play was good and a reflection of the girls' commitment to the team,"

said Ito, who had U16 and U18 players on the team's roster for the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association-organized match.

She added that they gave a lot of minutes to their younger players so that they can gain experience in the 11 aside game and work on building up chemistry with the U18 squad.

The process will give them time to understand the difference in game dynamics of a higher level game from a regular one and motivation to improve their team and individual skills.

Jannah Casarino led the NMI U18 with her pair of goals, while Allyssya Ange-

les and Tamia Hix added one each with the latter delivering the equalizer late in the 90-minute game.

Jhaza Mirano, Brittany Wally, Alexa Vergara, and Shawna Brennfleck scored for the Women's All-Star Team, which was managed by Kelsey McClellan. The All-Star crew fell behind at 0-2, but was able to regroup and even threatened to take the win when Brennfleck scored in the 71st minute.

"The U18 WNT were a formidable opponent, due to their speed, skill-level and ability to feed the ball to their wings. It was a relatively evenly matched game, as you can see from the scores.

**See EXHIBITION on Page 31**

